

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 59

SATURDAY - SUNDAY MARCH 10-11, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, rate you're level of satisfaction in how the local police solves crimes.

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



Volunteers vow to continue the free health screenings for Filipino workers.

➤ **PAGE 10**

NATION



Two children are found living in abandoned school bus in Texas.

➤ **PAGE 14**

LIFE & STYLE



A group called the Buranovo Gran-nies will represent Russia at the Eurovision.

➤ **PAGE 20**

PRESIDENTIAL BET'S SON VISITS SAIPAN

Fitial endorses Mitt Romney

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **CNMI Republicans vote today for delegates to national convention**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial endorsed Republican Mitt Romney's presidential candidacy yesterday at a luncheon he hosted for the former Massachusetts governor's son, Matt, and his wife Laurie, the first presidential campaign team to ever step foot on CNMI soil since it became a member of the American family.



Fitial



Romney

Fitial, chairman of the Republican Party of the NMI Association, made the announcement soon after receiving a phone call from Mitt Romney himself.

"I am apologetic that I can't be with you today but as you could imagine I'm running from place to place, trying to secure as many delegates as I can...and I hope I will be able to secure the nomination," Mitt Romney told Fitial via a phone call

See ROMNEY on Page 4

16 delegate bets in today's GOP caucus

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Republicans in the CNMI will vote for six of nine delegates to the national convention in August and pick among four presidential candidates in today's caucus on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

There are 16 candidates vying for six delegate seats to the convention, plus six alternates to ensure full participation in the Republican National Convention in Florida.

See GOP on Page 4



Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's son, Matt, and wife Laurie, pose with traditional warrior dance group members at a luncheon hosted yesterday by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at his private residence in Gualo Rai on the eve of today's Republican caucus in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

60 sex offenders checked out in sweep

» **DNA samples taken, 2 arrested, \$2,800 worth of marijuana seized**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI, Guam, and federal agencies launched this week on Saipan the second Operation Deviant Guard, a four-day com-

pliance check targeting 60 registered sex offenders.

For the first time, the task force collected DNA samples from registered sex offenders using cheek swabs that will be submitted to

See OFFENDERS on Page 4

DPS releases info on drowning incident. PAGE 2
Entire Pacific nation could one day move to Fiji. PAGE 5

Local

DPS releases information on drowning incident

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety finally released yesterday some information about the drowning of a Japanese tourist late Tuesday afternoon at a beach near Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

In a press release, police officer Jason

Tarkong stated that Emergency Medical Services responded and the victim was transported by an ambulance to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room, contradicting a witness who told *Saipan Tribune* that medics did not

show up and that the victim was brought to the hospital on a pickup truck.

Tarkong said the victim, a 76-year old Japanese male, was pronounced dead at approximately 5:41pm due to drowning.

"The attending physician and nurses made several attempts to revive the victim," Tarkong said.

Police say medics responded and transported victim to CHC

He said the case is still under investigation and that the victim's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The officer said that DPS Central dispatched Boating Safety officers and a patrol unit to a reported missing swimmer west of the Hyatt beach on

Tuesday at 5:10pm.

Tarkong said the police learned that the victim went swimming with three friends around 4pm near the sandbar in front of the Hyatt. The water depth at the time ranged from chest to neck high, he said.

The four decided to return to shore when the tide began to rise and the current and waves started getting stronger. Two of the men reached the shore. The victim, along with their third companion, was still in the water and struggling against the strong current.

The current pulled the victim and his friend away from the sandbar and got separated.

The third companion managed to swim back to shore and

called for help. All three companions stood on the sandbar, searching for the victim. When they failed to locate the victim, the three asked for help from people at the beach.

Bystanders assisted and approximately 15 to 20 minutes later, the victim was found and brought to shore, Tarkong said.

Frank Fourkan, a lifeguard and beach boy of Sakura, told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday that police officers came and that he did not see any medics.

Fourkan said that a captain of a 20-foot passenger boat coming from Managaha spotted the victim floating in the water. He said the captain took the victim to the boat and brought him ashore.

Fourkan said he and three other beach boys carried the victim on a chair toward the police's vehicles parked near the shoreline.

He said as there was no ambulance, they decided to put the victim on a pickup truck driven by a police officer.

Bench warrant vs alleged 'ice' trafficker increased to \$25,000

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho increased yesterday the bench warrant for a suspected "ice" trafficker who could not be located from \$2,000 to \$25,000.

Camacho directed law enforcement agencies to immediately arrest Lian Jun Li for failing to appear at a status conference that was intended to determine if his jury trial will go forward. Camacho also vacated Li's pre-trial conditions of release and the scheduled April 19, 2012, jury trial.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll and assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti told the court yesterday that they could not find Li and his third-party custodian after a weeklong search.

On Thursday, March 1, Ca-

macho issued a \$2,000 bench warrant for Li for failing to appear at a change of plea hearing.

Driscoll said that Li has been charged with a series of trafficking and possession crimes resulting from three separate controlled buys in November 2011.

"While serious, this was [Li's] first arrest in the CNMI, and the total amount of the crystal methamphetamine at issue, 2.3 gross grams, was fairly low," Driscoll said.

The prosecutor said the negotiated plea agreement is consistent with other agreements accepted by the court for similar first time drug trafficking offenses," she said.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged the 48-year-old Li with three counts of trafficking of controlled substance, and three counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

USCIS hosts webinars for CNMI employers, workers

Web conference sessions to Review I-9

The Verification Division of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will conduct three public web conference sessions, also known as "webinars," for employers and employees residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sessions will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (March 20, 21, and 22) at 9am CNMI time.

As part of its continuing efforts to keep the public informed, officials from the USCIS Verification Division Outreach Branch will hold these webinars to help both employers and workers understand Form I-9, Employment Eligibil-

ity Verification requirements. Participants will learn how to complete, retain and update a Form I-9. There will also be a brief discussion on the E-Verify Program. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions by way of the Chat Feature.

All U.S. workers are required to present proof of employment eligibility to work in the United States and proof of identity to employers on the first day of work. Information from these documents is recorded on the Form I-9.

Form I-9 must be completed by every employer and agricultural recruiter/referrer-for-a-fee hiring an individual for employment in the United States, as required by federal law. As of Nov. 28, 2011, employers in the CNMI must use the standard Form I-9 for new hires.

USCIS is the agency within the Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits. More information can be found at www.uscis.gov/cnmi. (USCIS)

Hawaii gov. declares disaster after rain, flooding

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP)—Hawaii's governor declared a disaster for two islands after three days of relentless rains caused flooding and a sewage spill on Kauai, where officials were dealing with tree-blocked roads, closed schools and dangerous surf.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie's declaration includes Oahu, where Honolulu is located. A brown water advisory was issued on the island after two manholes overflowed and wastewater flowed into the ocean. There were also warnings of possible hail, lightning, rockslides and water-clogged roads.

Kauai schoolchildren were



LEARNING GARDEN

An Oleai Elementary School student plants an eggplant sapling while others wait for their turn on one of the three garden plots as part of the Learning Garden initiative of Tan Holdings this week. The Learning Garden initiative is patterned after school learning gardens in the U.S. where public and private organizations partner with schools and communities to create gardens that would teach students how to grow their own crops, nurture healthy lifestyles, and take an active part in nature conservation and environmental stewardship.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The State Board of Education and the Public School System have expressed reservations about a bill that proposes to create a Northern Marianas Descent Institute that will not only provide education and job trainings but will also preserve and promote the islands' culture and heritage.

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, in a joint letter to Rep. Raphael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, said they recognize the bill's purpose but have reservations about it because it will overlap with the existing programs and initiatives of the public schools. They asked that the funds that will be made available to the proposed institute be made available to PSS instead.

Ada and Sablan pointed out that PSS continues to expand its cultural and heritage studies in Chamorro and Carolinian through extracurricular activities and events such as the primary grade forensic league and the annual Chamorro and Carolinian language, arts and crafts, and performing arts competition within the Guam and CNMI, where students have always placed in the top. They also cit-

ed the creation of student organizations such as the Chamorro Club, Refalawasch Club, and the integration of the Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies into other content area in public schools.

The overlap was also noted in the constitutional mandate of the education board under Article 15.

"Please note that the CNMI Constitution and statutes mandate that the State Board of Education formulate policies and exercise control over the PSS. ... In addition, and more specifically, the board is also committed to the preservation of our cultures and languages," Ada and Sablan told the lawmaker.

They said the board has implemented policies and administers curricular programs to promote, preserve and develop content knowledge and skills to all children under the CCLHS, Northern Marianas History, and under its Social Studies standards and benchmarks, which includes the cultural heritage studies of the CNMI and the Pacific. They also cited other programs such as career and technical education in schools as initiatives to help local students prepare for college.

Ada and Sablan revealed that 47 percent of student enrolled at PSS are indigenous students. PSS has over 10,000 students this school year.

IN BRIEF

FOR EMPLOYERS

- Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 9am CNMI time
- Thursday, March 22, 2012, 9am CNMI time

FOR WORKERS

- Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 9am CNMI time

WHERE: Any computer with Internet connection; you will also need a telephone

■ To attend a Webinar Pre-Registration is not required.

■ The session you plan to attend will become active 15 minutes prior to the listed time.

■ If you have never used ATT Connect before, you can just let your computer set up automatically when it enters the webinar (allow some extra time for the setup). You will then be connected to the Form I-9 presentation.

For more information visit the website at www.dhs.gov/E-Verify, and click on *Take a Free Webinar*.

TO EMPLOYERS: We invite employers to set up the connection in a conference room so that your employees can attend the Wednesday webinar.

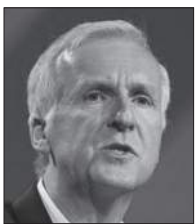
Filmmaker Cameron plans record 7-mile ocean dive

WASHINGTON (AP)—A calm James Cameron has broken his own record with the world's deepest solo submarine dive, plunging 5.1 miles (8.2 kilometers) in the Pacific Ocean near Papua New Guinea, the filmmaker said Thursday.

But that's nothing. Later this month he says he plans to descend to the deepest place on Earth.

Cameron is aiming to plunge to the bottom of Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench of the Pacific Ocean, 200 miles southwest of Guam. It's 6.8 miles (11 kilometers) deep. Humans have been there only once before when a two-man U.S. Navy team went for just 20 minutes in 1960.

The "Avatar" and "Titanic" filmmaker said he wasn't



Cameron

hours on the bottom.

"Certainly not nervous or scared during the dive," Camer-

frightened when he dove nearly that far in a practice run Wednesday that lasted 3.5

on told The Associated Press in a ship-to-shore phone interview. "You tend to be a little apprehensive ahead of the dive about what could go wrong. When you are actually on the dive you have to trust the engineering was done right."

Later, he acknowledged that the bone-crushing pressure at five miles and seven miles deep "is in the back of

your mind."

Cameron is using a one-man, 12-ton lime green sub that he helped design called Deepsea Challenger. He is partnering with the National Geographic Society, where he is an explorer-in-residence.

"The deep trenches are the last unexplored frontier on our planet, with scientific riches enough to fill a hundred years of

exploration," Cameron said in an earlier statement.

Cameron, who has been an oceanography enthusiast since childhood, has made 72 deep-sea submersible dives, including 33 to the Titanic, the subject of his 1997 blockbuster. A 3-D version of "Titanic" comes out April 4, timed to the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

Fund board gives administrator the authority to hire

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees on Thursday gave Richard Villagomez the authority to hire an independent external auditor in anticipation of the board's in-

The board has only three members after the terms of board chair Sixto K. Igisomar and vice chair Adelina Roberto ended yesterday. Although the two were re-appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Senate has yet to confirm them.

The board needs at least four

Bernardita Palacios, Marian Tudela, and Nacrina Barcinas. Two slots are vacant.

Igisomar, who is also the Department of Commerce secretary, said he has no idea as to when his possible confirmation will happen.

So as not to jeopardize the process of completing the agency's independent audit, the board authorized Villagomez, the Fund's administrator, to go ahead and hire an independent auditor—a process that has

been delayed due to the passage of the since revoked Beneficiaries Derivative Act.

Despite the lack of a board quorum, Igisomar assured that pensions and benefits will continue to be issued.

More questions

The board also disclosed Thursday that meetings it had with members of the Commonwealth Retirees Association and community members this week yielded more questions than an-

swers, with many of participants blaming either Fund officials or the Legislature for the current fiscal condition of the pension program.

The Kagman Community Center meeting had about 15 retirees in attendance, Villagomez said, while over a hundred took part in the meeting at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday night. A handful showed up at the meeting on Tinian, he added.

Most of the retirees, he said, raised a common question: "What's the plan now?"

Villagomez admitted that de-

spite the presentations and discussions with participants, nothing concrete came out of it.

As far as the proposed benefit cuts is concerned, Igisomar pointed out that the board is not authorized to do that because it is constitutionally barred from impairing or diminishing members' benefits.

It was also learned that retirees were split in their views about the benefit cut and how much they're willing to sacrifice. Some members, they said, also recommended putting caps on benefit payments until the financial condition of the program improves.

Mafea members urged to take part in project



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects put in place a new backboard for the Oleai Elementary School's basketball court.

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects is spearheading an ongoing community project at Oleai Elementary School compound and is urging all its members to pitch in.

In cooperation with Oleai Elementary School Parent Teachers Students Association, Mafea is currently in the process of upgrading the school's existing basketball court and installing new benches and new plant boxes inside the school.

This project has been in progress since March 3-4, 2012 and is still in the completion stage. Mafea officers and board of directors are encouraging all members to participate in this noble project for the benefit of all children at the Oleai Elementary School.

"We have an unfinished projects and in the spirit of voluntarism, we hope to see Mafea volunteer members on Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11, 2012, at the Oleai Elementary School compound at 8am," said Mafea's Carlito Marquez.

For more information, call secretary Lito M. at 989-6191,

Mafea president Ruel V. at 235-8778, or board chair Rick T. at 888-0898. (Mafea)



TASTE OF INDIA
ONLY AUTHENTIC INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN SAIPAN SINCE 1997

**Sea Food & Vegetarian
Sunday Brunch**
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Mouth Watering Menu

Tomato Shorba Soup
Poori
Fish Pollichathu [Mahi-mahi]
Sea Food Nawabi Platter
Pumpkin Curry
Aloo Bhaji
Paneer Makhani
Yellow Dal Thadka
Fried Rice
Papad, Pickle, Vegetable
Salad, Yoghurt
with Glass of Champagne
& Iced Tea

All For Just \$12.00
Vegetarian Customers
only \$10.00

Middle Road, Chalan Lau Lau
For reservation, call 234-8448

Judge keeps convicted rapist in jail prior to sentencing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo has denied the request of convicted rapist Raymond Mendiola Camacho to be freed from jail while awaiting his sentencing.

Govendo remanded Camacho back to the custody of the Department of Corrections after Wednesday's hearing on the motion.

The judge denied Camacho's request based on the victims' testimony that "the defendant [will] 'slaughter' her" and the danger Camacho poses to the victim and society.

Court-appointed counsel

Stephen Woodruff represented Camacho. Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson appeared for the government.

Woodruff said his client was wrongfully remanded to custody since he made his guilty plea unconditionally. "This action by the court was an injustice to the defendant and, even more importantly, a grave injustice to innocent parties, Mr. Camacho's family, his 'wife' and nine children, and his aged and largely disabled parents," Woodruff said.

Robinson said, however, that Govendo made the right decision because no conditions of release will assure that Camacho will not flee or pose a dan-

ger to the community.

"[Camacho's] recent conviction is his third sex offense conviction. Jail sentences, fines, and supervised probation have failed to deter [his] criminal activities in the past. There is no indication that release conditions will deter his criminal activity between release and sentencing," Robinson said.

Last Feb. 23, with the jury trial on its third day and the prosecution having two witnesses left, the 38-year-old Camacho decided to throw in the towel by entering a guilty plea.

Camacho pleaded guilty to kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, attempted sexual assault in the first degree, and


disturbing the peace.

Govendo directed the Office of Probation Office to submit by April 9, 2012 a pre-sentence investigation report.

Govendo then remanded Camacho into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Police said that Camacho, a convicted sex offender, asked the victim to bring him to a secluded old radar station area in As Matuis where he threatened to slaughter her before trying to rape her inside her car on Feb. 23, 2011.

The victim managed to escape after she hit him in the left eye with the car key, forcing him to go down from the vehicle and giving her the chance to drive off.



Notice of Meeting
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 1. February 14, 2012 – Regular Meeting
- II. Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.
- III. Board Chair's Remarks**
- IV. Reports**
 - a. Associated Students of NMC
 - b. Staff Senate
 - c. Faculty Senate
 - d. President's Report
 1. Dean of Administration Financial Report
 - e. Peer Analysis
 - f. Program Highlights – NMC's Expanded Focus on Adult Students
- V. Old Business**
 - a. WASC Matters
 1. WASC Accreditation Update (No action required)
 - b. NMC Foundation Update (Action Item)
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Board Policy for Consideration – First Reading
 1. Board Policy No. 101 – Table of Contents for BOR Policies (Action Item)
 2. Board Policy No. 200.1 – Institutional Governance (Action Item)
 - b. Board Policy for consideration – Second Reading
 1. Board Policy No. 801 – Campus Facilities Planning (Action Item)
- VII. Legislative Update**
 1. H.B. 17-041 – To rename NMC the "Governor Carlos S. Camacho, Northern Marianas College (Action Item)
 2. H.B. 17-245 – To establish the Northern Marianas Descent Institute, a non-profit public corporation for persons of Northern Marianas descent that will establish a school and job training (Action Item)
 3. Pending Bills
- VIII. Executive Session**
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- IX. Board Self-Evaluation**
- X. Adjournment**

/s/ **Juan T. Lizama**
Date: March 8, 2012

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

ROMNEY

From Page 1

that everyone at the luncheon heard.

The luncheon was held by the poolside of Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai.

Not only did Fitial endorse Mitt Romney but he also urged other delegates to vote for him at the Republican National Convention in Florida in August.

There will be a total of nine delegates from the CNMI, including Fitial and two other officials, at the Republican National Convention.

Six of these delegates will be chosen in today's caucus on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Mitt Romney assured that he will always remember the CNMI.

"And if I become president, I can assure you that you will have my attention and my interest and I will update myself with the concerns of the Northern Marianas...I hope that I will be able to win the support of your delegates at the forthcoming caucuses this weekend," he added.

Fitial thanked Mitt Romney for sending his second oldest son Matt and Laurie to Saipan.

The governor said he found out only yesterday that Matt and his family live right next to his house in San Diego, California.

"We really want you to know that we believe in your leadership and we believe that you will always remember us here. Just the fact that you sent out your son is a testimony that you care for us. So we want you to know that I will be endorsing you, I will be supporting you and I am going to ask the other delegates that they also do the same," Fitial told Mitt Romney on the phone.

The presidential candidate thanked Fitial for his endorsement, adding that he looks forward to meeting with him.

'Every delegate vote counts'

The Romneys arrived on Saipan early Friday morning, had a short morning run, a meeting with Fitial on CNMI issues especially the economy, and then graced the luncheon at the governor's private residence.

Matt, 40, and Laurie Romney left Saipan Friday night for Guam, where they are also drumming up support for their father.

With the race to the White House heating up, presidential campaigns are reaching out not only to the 50 U.S. states but also to territories such as the CNMI and Guam where nine delegates each are at stake.

As of yesterday, Mitt Romney has garnered 421 delegates, less than half of the 1,144 delegates needed to win the Republican presidential nomination.

Former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum has 181 delegates so far, former House speaker Newt Gingrich has 107, and Rep. Ron Paul has 47.

Matt Romney said that every delegate vote "counts."

"It is important for us to get everywhere we can, everywhere that people vote. This is obviously one of the harder locations to get to but by far, it's one of my favorites so far," he said.

Fitial said that mathematically, "it's going to be difficult to beat [Mitt Romney] in the caucuses."

Should Romney become president, Fitial said he wants the CNMI to get additional help for its economy.

"Governor Romney understands the critical role that the CNMI plays in the Pacific region and I also understand

from talking to him that he's committed to helping us improve our economy the right way," he added.

The CNMI budget has steadily shrunk in years. It only has \$102 million this year to run the government, forcing it to resort to 16-hour work cuts and unpaid holidays and experiencing delayed payrolls, power cutoff over outstanding utility bills, financial crisis at its retirement system and hospital, among others.

'Warm welcome'

Matt and Laurie Romney arrived at Fitial's residence overlooking Saipan's western lagoon around 12pm yesterday.

The governor and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) greeted the Romneys who were each presented with head mwarms or flowers.

"We're really happy to be here," Matt Romney told the media before heading for a tent prepared for the luncheon.

He said he and his four brothers had a debate on who was going to get to the CNMI first and he was fortunate to be the one to visit the islands.

Matt Romney hopes to secure all the nine delegate votes from the CNMI.

After hearing Fitial's endorsement of his father, Matt Romney said, "That means a lot to us."

"I know it means a lot to my dad, and thank you to you and your wife Josie for welcoming us here to your island. You've been very hospitable. Everyone has been very nice to us. We've had a chance to go out and meet a bunch of people since we've been here. It's a very warm place in more ways than one and we really admire and respect the people here," he added.

Ed Deleon Guerrero, second vice chairman of the CNMI Republican Party, said he's "very grateful" for the Romneys' visit to Saipan.

"We live in very remote islands of the U.S. Oftentimes people in Washington, D.C. make decisions without talking to us or visiting us," he said, adding that this is a "historic moment."

Deleon Guerrero, who is among the Republican delegate candidates in today's race, said he personally supports Mitt Romney.

Joann T. Aquino, a member of the National Women's GOP, said she supports Mitt Romney, although she backed out from the GOP delegate race after seeing the list of candidates.

She said she thinks more women should come out, vote, and get involved in national politics.

'From the horse's mouth'

Mitt Romney, in his phone call to Fitial, also spoke briefly about his credentials and leadership experience, including balancing Massachusetts' budget and cutting taxes 19 times when he was governor.

He also took a swipe at President Obama's presidency, including what he claimed as the continuous buildup of "massive deficit which I think is very threatening," an "unsuccessful path in rebuilding our economy," "shrinking the military dramatically at a time when I believe the world is more dangerous and at a time when China is exercising a newfound wealth in building a very substantial maritime presence in the Pacific."

"I only wish that we could maintain our military spending at a percentage of our total economy," Romney said.

Fitial said he's also "very touched" that Romney has an understanding of the number of sons and daughters that the CNMI has in the U.S. military. The CNMI has lost over a dozen sons and daughters in the war against terror.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said it's "fantastic" to have a presidential campaign team personally reaching out to the CNMI.

"I'm sure the nine delegates will all vote for him at the convention," he added.

'My dad'

Matt Romney spoke of his father's character, principles, background, and qualification to become the next president.

"He's someone who's been in business for a long time like your governor. He has a business background and I think that really matters. He understands what it's like not only to look for a job, employ people but also understands what it's like when people don't have a job and the kind of impact that has...For me it's a perspective that I think our next president needs to have as a business background. He's got that. He cares a lot about our nation, our economy," he said.

He said there are a lot of people who don't necessarily have a good impression of his father because of what they see in the mainstream media.

"But let me assure you, from someone who knows him best, perhaps only my mom knows better, this is someone who cares a lot about our country, who cares a lot about our economy, who cares a lot about our future and the future of his kids, his grandkids, and all of our kids and because of that I'm proud to be out here campaigning for him," Matt Romney said.

He spoke of his father's knack for turning things around, including while working for the private sector for 25 years.

"He took over troubled companies, turned them around, fixed them, and made them better," he said.

Matt Romney cited as an example the time when his father, as chief executive officer of the 2002 Winter Olympics, rescued it from a financial mess to a budget surplus.

"He also did that as governor of Massachusetts. He came into office and I know you can appreciate this, but things were tough and so he had to cut the budget quite a bit and he did that very smartly. But he was able to take a \$3 billion shortfall and turned it into a rainy day fund," he added.

Matt Romney shared a personal story about their family vacation when his father rescued him from drowning. He got pushed into a reef, his leash and surfboard were wrapped around the reef, he was under the water, "and probably in real danger of drowning."

He said his father, who just walked back to the hotel, had that nagging feeling that he had to turn around and watch over his children again.

"My dad, when he saw it, jumped in with all his clothes on under the reef and literally pulled me up by my leash and saved my life and we walked back to the hotel. We were both covered in blood from the reef...the waves were crashing into us...That's the kind of person my dad is. He dives in, full board and he just rolls his sleeves up and gets the job done. Other people are comfortable watching. He's very comfortable taking charge and I've seen him do it time and time again. This is exactly what we need right now in our country," he said.

At that point, Fitial said, "That's right."

Matt Romney also recalled how, while he was growing up, his father would say "turn it off" when they left the water on for too long, or he would say "shut the door" when they left the refrigerator door open for too long.

"And you got very used to it. He hates waste. We need someone like

that in Washington who hates waste, and who isn't going to waste our money. We need someone who's got to cut the government and allow a prosperous environment for businesses to flourish again," he said.

During a question-and-answer with the Republicans at the luncheon, Matt Romney said he will pass along the con-

OFFENDERS

From Page 1

a Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory.

The operation, which began Monday, resulted in the location and verification of all 60 sex offenders, according to John Untalan, a senior inspector of the U.S. Marshals for the Districts of Guam/NMI, in a news briefing at the Department of Corrections' conference room.

Untalan said two were arrested for not complying with rules that require them to inform authorities if they change address, two were found to have already died, and one was found to have already been deported to Yap.

Under local and federal laws, any person convicted of a sex crime is required to register as a sex offender.

"In terms of the success of the operation, I have to say that it's an overwhelming success. Thanks to the efforts of everyone here," Untalan said.

Citing their first operation in July 2011, Untalan said it is an ongoing effort by the U.S. Marshal Service and that they will be conducting future operations.

Untalan said that Guam right now has over 400 sex offenders that are registered. "We are going to be conducting an operation in the near future [in] Guam," he said.

The task force also reportedly seized during the sweep marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$2,800.

Untalan said the marijuana plants were turned over to the Department of Public Safety for eradication and investigation.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that all registered sex offenders are to provide DNA samples to DPS pursu-

GOP

From Page 1

Two women backed out from the original list of candidates: Joann T. Aquino and Patricia S. Rasa.

The 16 remaining candidates are: Efrain Atalig, Eric B. Atalig, Diego C. Blanco, Michael Borja, Frank Camacho, Joaquina DLG. Chong, Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz, Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, Jose R. Lifofoi, Joaquin T. Ogomoro, Egredino "Dino" Jones, Juan C. "Liling" Reyes, Herman Sablan, Ray Salas, Richard B. Seman, and Juan I. Tenorio.

Whoever is elected today will join Republican Party of the NMI Association chair Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, national committeeman Bo Palacios, and national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo at the national convention where they will help pick the Republican nominee who will face President Barack Obama on Nov. 6.

The caucus comes a day before Fitial formally endorsed Mitt Romney's candidacy and urged fellow Republicans and delegates to also support Romney.

Some of today's candidates said in separate interviews yesterday that they support Romney and that they will vote for him at the national convention in August if they win in today's race.

In today's ballot, Republicans are asked to choose one of four Republican

cern raised by Danny Aquino about treating the CNMI equally among states and territories by allowing its people to participate in presidential elections.

The Romneys got a taste of island food that was served at the luncheon, watched traditional dances, and met with Republicans that included former and current government officials.

ant to the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and the CNMI Sex Offender Registry Public Law 17-49.

Tarkong said the task force obtained DNA samples from the registered sex offenders and forwarded them to the FBI database.

"That's the first time we ever collected DNA samples," said Tarkong, who is also the officer-in-charge of the DPS Sex Offender Registry Unit.

Tarkong said the two arrested offenders were subsequently released, but their cases will be forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution.

U.S. Marshal for Districts of Guam/NMI Frank Leon Guerrero said they brought in for the operation eight U.S. Marshals from Guam. Through the compliance service, he said they make sure that all registered sex offenders are checked using modern technologies.

DNA samples are taken from registered sex offenders so it can provide positive identification if there is evidence that they are involved in other crimes like homicide and robbery, he said.

DPS Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas said it was a joint operation that involved not just the local police and U.S. Marshals Service but also the CNMI Board of Parole, CNMI Office of Adult Probation, Judiciary of Guam Marshals Division, and Guam Department of Corrections.

In July 2011, Deviant Guard targeted 50 registered sex offenders in the CNMI. The operation resulted in the location and verification of 40 offenders, the arrest of five for non-compliance, and seizure of \$7,000 worth of marijuana plants.

candidates for the United States president: Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Rick Santorum, and Newt Gingrich.

Today's election will be from 7am to 7pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Saipan, Tinian Youth Center in San Jose on Tinian, and the Rota Republican Party Headquarters on Rota.

Alepuyo said that everyone who wants to register as a Republican is welcome to do so at the polling and could immediately participate in the voting.

The NMI Republican Party received official recognition from the national organization in 2004.

The nine delegates are "unbound." This means they are not obligated to vote for a particular candidate at the Republican National Convention.

The governor and other local party members urged fellow Republicans to "go out and vote" in today's caucus.

Matt Romney, the second oldest son of Mitt Romney, who is on Saipan with his wife Laurie, also encouraged people to participate in today's caucuses.

"Your vote means a lot. On Saturday, please get out. Do everything you can. Not only would it be great to see you there but also bring your neighbors and your friends. Even if they don't vote for my dad, I still want to make sure that everybody gets out and vote. If they do vote for my dad, give them a ride and offer them some breakfast or something," he said.

Entire Pacific nation of Kiribati could one day move to Fiji

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fearing that climate change could wipe out their entire Pacific archipelago, the leaders of Kiribati are considering an unusual backup plan: moving the populace to Fiji.

Kiribati President Anote Tong told The Associated Press on Friday that his Cabinet this week endorsed a plan to buy nearly 6,000 acres on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. He said the fertile land, being sold by a church group for about \$9.6 million, could provide an insurance policy for Kiribati's entire population of 103,000, though he hopes it will never be necessary for everyone to leave.

"We would hope not to put everyone on one piece of land, but if it became absolutely necessary, yes, we could do it," Tong said. "It wouldn't be for me, personally, but would apply more to a younger generation. For them, moving won't be a matter of choice. It's basically going to be a matter of survival."

Kiribati, which straddles the equator near the international date line, has found itself at the leading edge of the debate on climate change because many of its atolls rise just a few feet above sea level.

Tong said some villages have already moved and there have been increasing instances of sea water contaminating the island's underground fresh water, which remains vital for trees and crops. He said changing rainfall, tidal and storm patterns pose as least as much threat as ocean levels, which so far have risen only slightly.

Some scientists have estimated the current level of sea rise

in the Pacific at about 2 millimeters (0.1 inches) per year. Many scientists expect that rate to accelerate due to climate change.

Fiji, home to about 850,000 people, is about 1,400 miles south of Kiribati. But just what people there think about potentially providing a home for thousands of their neighbors remains unclear. Tong said he's awaiting full parliamentary approval for the land purchase,

which he expects in April, before discussing the plan formally with Fijian officials.

Sharon Smith-Johns, a spokeswoman for the Fijian government, said several agencies are studying Kiribati's plans and the government will release a formal statement next week.

Kiribati, which was known as the Gilbert Islands when it was a British colony, has been an

independent nation since 1979.

Tong has been considering other unusual options to combat climate change, including shoring up some Kiribati islands with sea walls and even building a floating island. He said this week that the latter option would likely prove too expensive, but that he hopes reinforcing some islands will ensure that Kiribati continues to exist in some form even in a worst-case scenario.

"We're trying to secure the future of our people," he said. "The international commu-

nity needs to be addressing this problem more."

Tong said he hopes that the Fiji land will represent just one of several options for relocating people. He pointed out that the land is three times larger than the atoll of Tarawa, currently home to more than half of Kiribati's population.

Although like much of the Pacific, Kiribati is poor—its annual GDP per person is just \$1,600—Tong said the country has plenty of foreign reserves to draw from for the land purchase. The money, he said, comes from phosphate mining on the archipelago in the 1970s.



JOETEN DONATION

Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances T. Demapan, seated left, talks about the need for a hospice care facility in the CNMI just before presenting a \$5,000 check donation to 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee members led by chair Catherine Attao-Toves, second from left, Commonwealth Cancer Association board members, and staff in a ceremony at the Joeten Center in Susupe on Wednesday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Humane Society honors Sablan for Animal Welfare Leadership in 2011

WASHINGTON—On behalf of its 152 supporters in the territory of the Northern Mariana Islands, The Humane Society of the United States, together with its affiliate, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, will present an award to U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP) for his leadership on animal protection legislation in 2011.

Sablan will receive a Legislative Leader award for his leadership on large constrictor snakes.

"We commend Delegate Sablan for taking the lead and call-

ing attention to these humane concerns," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "We're grateful to have such a steadfast supporter on animal protection."

Every year, the Humane Society Legislative Fund compiles a federal Humane Scorecard to provide a snapshot of animal protection issues considered by the U.S. Congress and give animal advocates a tool to assess the performance of their senators and representatives. The scorecard tracks key votes as well as co-sponsorship of

important pro-animal bills and signing an annual letter seeking funds needed to enforce key animal welfare laws. For 2011, House ratings included votes on agribusiness subsidies, lethal predator control, and the Endangered Species Act, and co-sponsorship of priority bills on puppy mills, horse slaughter, animal fighting, and chimpanzees warehoused in laboratories.

In total, 127 legislators—nearly one-third of the Senate and one-quarter of the House (representing 38 states, three U. S. territories, and the Dis-

trict of Columbia)—will receive awards for their work in 2011.

"It is heartening to see again how animal protection issues bring Members of Congress together across party lines," said HSLF President Michael Markarian. "We thank Delegate Sablan for his outstanding work to ensure that our federal laws reflect the core humane values and attitudes of American society."

HSUS and HSLF will present the award at a reception on Wednesday, March 7, from 5pm to 7:30pm in Room H-137 of the U.S. Capitol. (PR)

700-plus students to duke it out in Chamorro language competition

Over 700 students and 70 teachers and coaches from various schools in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are participating in this year's annual Chamorro language competition as part of the University of Guam's Charter Day activities on its 60th anniversary.

As in the past competitions, 215 UOG CHamoru language students are assisting, according to a statement yesterday by Chamorro language instructors at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Guam.

This year, the competition is called *Inachá'igen Fino' CHamoru 2012*. *Inachá'igen's* base form in CHamoru is *igi* that means "to beat, to excel, to challenge." The *Inachá'igen Fino' CHamoru 2012* theme is *I Fino' CHamoru: Setbe, Sãtba yan Sos-*

tieni, The CHamoru Language: Serve, Save and Hold on to.

This year, the competition is two days, Monday, March 12, 2012, from 2:30pm to 7:30pm at the UOG CLASS Lecture Hall, and Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the UOG Fieldhouse from 7am to 3:30pm.

The *Inachá'igen* categories on Monday are: elementary school spelling and storytelling, and middle and high school oratorical and poetry recitation. On Tuesday, students will compete in: elementary school children's choir; high school proficiency, dramatic cultural interpretation, song with dance and male and female singing; and middle school chant and choral reading. All winners will be announced after each competition except for drawing and essays. These will be judged earlier and winners will be announced on Tuesday.

There are 29 participating schools and one CHamoru language club in this year's competition in 19 categories. The elementary school categories are: K-2 and 3-5 Spelling/Dinilitreha, 3-5 Storytelling/Umetoriha, K-2 and 3-5 Drawing/Yiningnga', and K-2 and 3-5 Children's Choir/Koron Famagu'on.

Students in the middle schools will compete in the following categories: Sinangan/Oratorical, Rinisádan Po'ema/Poetry Recitation, Tinige'/Es-say, Tinaital Koru/Choral Reading, Lálai/Chant.

The high school categories include: Oratorical/Sinangan, Rinisádan Po'ema/Poetry Recitation, Male and Female Singing/Láhi yan Palao'an na Kákanta, Song with Dance/Kánta yan Baila, Dramatic Cultural Interpretation/Inentetpeten Kotturan Egge', and Proficien-

cy/Profisiente.

Inachá'igen Fino' CHamoru 2012 sees two first time participants: Andersen Elementary, a DODEA school, and the *Man-antigu Club - Tini'an* Island.

Returning participants from the elementary schools are: Carbullido, Truman, Guerrero, San Miguel, Merizo, Ordos-Chalan Pago, Talofofo, Upi, and Wetengel. From the middle schools are: Astumbo, Inarajan, Rios, Untalan and Oceanview.

All five Guam Department of Education schools are participating. Additionally, Mt. Carmel and St. Francis from the Catholic schools on Guam and the CNMI schools that come this year as one large group under the name *Gurupon* CNMI Public School System consisting of students from various CNMI schools from Saipan, Tini'an and Rota at all grade levels. (UOG)

Alleged victim wants to drop complaint vs cop boyfriend

The girlfriend of a police officer who allegedly beat her up last year has written a letter asking Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja to drop her complaint.

The girlfriend stated in the letter that she personally hand-delivered her withdrawal letter on Aug. 25, 2011, to the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division in reference to the criminal case against police officer Jerome A. Reyes.

The girlfriend said at the Aug. 29, 2011, arraignment hearing, a government prosecutor did not bother to mention that she's made a request to withdraw her complaint.

This was what prompted her to write the letter to Naraja, she said. The letter, dated Sept. 1, 2011, was notarized and included in the criminal case file against Reyes.

"The AG's Office disregarded my withdrawal request and I was not afforded to speak for myself during the hearing even though I was present at such time," the girlfriend said.

Although the arraignment is already done, the girlfriend said

she wants Naraja to accept her plea in withdrawing her case against Reyes.

"I understand that Mr. Reyes' action is not acceptable by law and by our Catholic beliefs and I truly don't condone it. However, I do believe in forgiveness and I believe in giving Mr. Reyes a second chance," she said.

She added that she strongly believes that Reyes is sorry for what he's committed and is willing to get the help he needs.

"I do kindly request your honor to consider dismissing my case for the sake of my family and most especially my daughter, who also forgives him for what he's committed," she added.

Last Monday, a status conference was conducted before Naraja. The judge continued the status conference on April 9, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Reyes had entered a not-guilty plea to charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A detective stated in his report that Reyes beat up the girlfriend in the presence of her 9-year-old daughter at their apartment last Aug. 13. (Ferdie de la Torre)

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Special Meeting to be held on **Monday, March 12, 2012** beginning at 1:00pm at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT** - none
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORT** - none
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
 - CHC - financial assistance request
- V COMMUNICATIONS**
- VI NEW BUSINESS** - none
- VII MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 59Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

GOP race taking on clear outline

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Thursday, March 8:

Now that Super Tuesday has come and gone, the GOP presidential race has taken on a clearer shape. Here are the defining points as the contest heads into Kansas, Alabama and Mississippi:

The primaries are a two-man race between Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum. Newt Gingrich may have won his adopted home state of Georgia, but the former House speaker has had no traction beyond Georgia and South Carolina. Santorum, on the other hand, won Oklahoma, Tennessee and North Dakota and took the fight to Romney in Ohio.

For rock-solid conservatives, the winnowing is positive. Santorum is the more stable, compelling voice for culturally conservative, economically populist Republicans. Both Santorum and Gingrich cast themselves as warring against elites, but Santorum can do it with a smile and sense of mission. Gingrich appears too vindictive and calculating with his hard-right stands.

Santorum, however, must do more than come close in big states. The Pennsylvanian can't keep suggesting he'd do better if Gingrich dropped out. He must win major battlegrounds to show his message would resonate in November.

Romney didn't win Ohio as big as he would have liked, but he remains ahead in delegates and victories. The former governor crept ahead in Ohio because of his appeal in big urban, suburban areas. An appeal like that would help him in November, when the GOP nominee must win metropolitan voters.

Santorum, by contrast, did well in Ohio in smaller, rural communities. Small towns may be iconic America, but they are not where most Americans live.

Romney still struggles to connect with average Americans, but he's tapping into a bigger vein of voters, especially those worried about the economy.

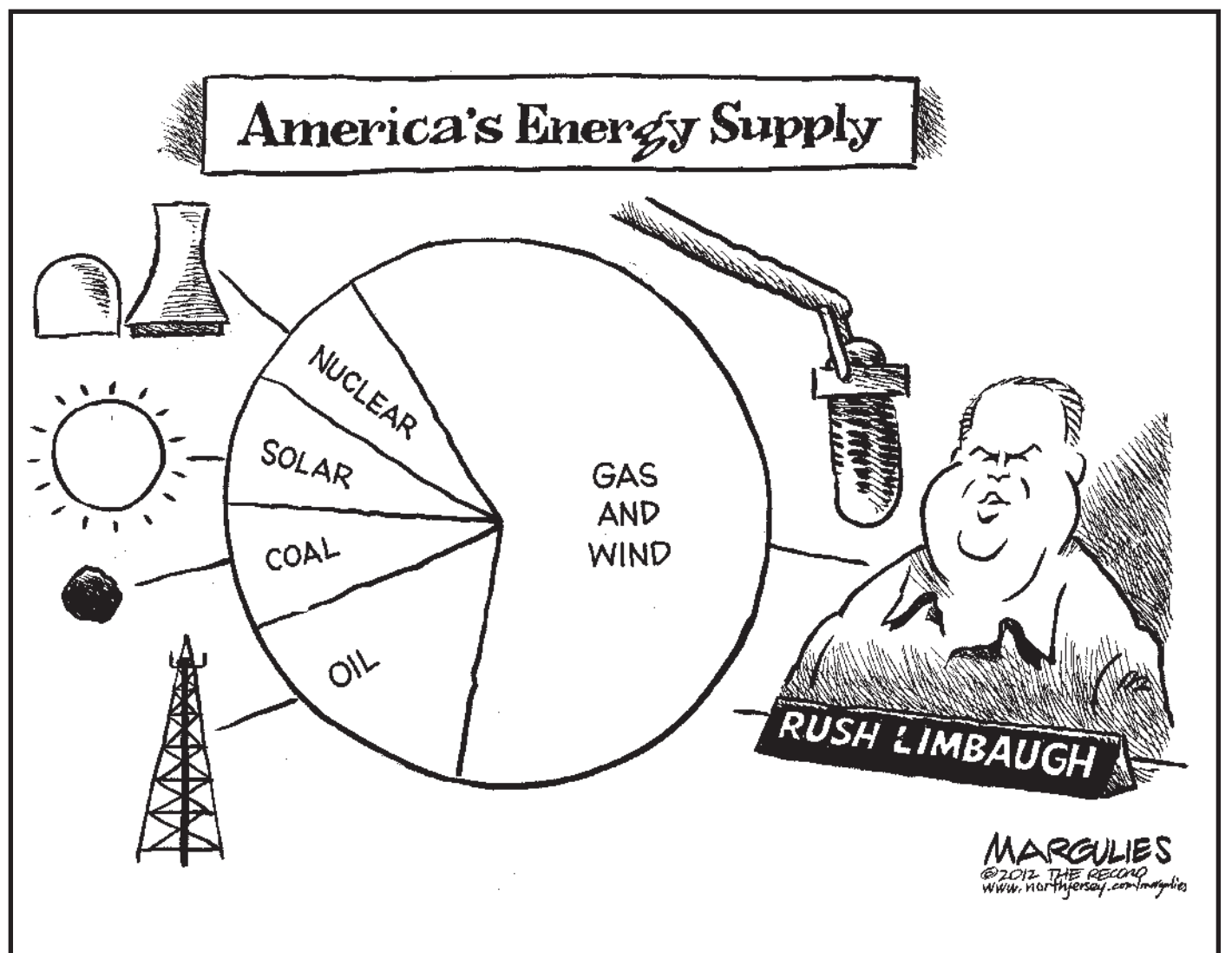
Barbara Bush was right when she said in Dallas this week that the GOP contest has grown too bruising. Internal competition of ideas can strengthen parties, but the former first lady was correct that the personal attacks have gotten out of hand. If the animosities don't get buried soon, the eventual nominee will have to spend too much time winning Republicans in the fall instead of swing, independent voters. That would be devastating in a tight general election.

The split is about more than personality, too. It's about the GOP's business, mainstream wing vs. the party's fervent populists.

The latter group has wrested control of the internal debate, pulling the former group further and further to the right. The business, mainstream wing that backs Romney needs to start pulling the party back toward the middle.

Otherwise, voters who want an entrepreneurial economic message but who also value women's rights, strong public schools and a humane immigration policy will be driven away in November. It's hard to see how that would help Republicans in any way.

©2012 The Dallas Morning News



No quit in these presidential candidates

Poor Mitt Romney. He won six of 10 states on Super Tuesday, including hotly contested Ohio. He lengthened his lead in the count of delegates who will actually choose the Republican presidential nominee. But he's still a long way from claiming victory.

Why? Because there's no compelling reason for Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich or Ron Paul to drop out of the race. Each has a reason to keep fighting at least through April—and maybe all the way to the convention in August.

The elongated GOP primary race is partly a product of new party rules that aimed deliberately to produce a longer campaign, mostly by allowing losing candidates to win more of the delegates through proportional allocation. ("The dumbest idea anybody ever had," in the assessment of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Romney backer.) And the marathon is partly because of "super PACs," the new fundraising vehicles that allow billionaires to keep a favorite campaign on life support.

But it's also a product of the individual circumstances of Romney's rivals.

Santorum is the most straightforward case. He's in second place in the delegate chase, and stands at least a theoretical chance of winning if Romney were somehow to collapse. But even more important, Santorum, 53, is the youngest of the four candidates; if he runs an impressive race and finishes second (or, as he put it on Tuesday, with "silver medals"), he would be a logical candidate for vice president this year—or president in 2016. "He'll go all the way to the convention," a Romney adviser predicted.

Paul is a little more complicated. The Texas congressman hasn't won a single primary—not even in Alaska, a libertarian hotbed. But he's running to promote a cause, not to win the nomination. He's the oldest candidate at 76, but he has an heir—Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., 49—who can pick up the banner next time. So Paul too has good reasons to stay in the race long enough to win as many delegates as he can—the better to get some libertarian themes into the GOP platform and claim a prime-time speaking role at the convention in Tampa, Fla.

Then there's Gingrich, the most complicated of all. At 68, this is probably his one and only run for the presidency. And it's increasingly clear he doesn't have a shot. But of all the candidates, he's the one who appears to be enjoying himself the most. He's turned his campaign, with its eclectic lectures on energy policy and outer space, into a kind of performance art.

Gingrich says he's confident he can win the next few contests and that, in any case, he intends to stay in the race until the California primary June 5. And there's no reason he can't, as long as billionaire Sheldon Adelson doesn't cut off his super PAC's cash flow.

Why? Posterity. Gingrich is unusually candid about comparing

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



his career to those of Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He cares immensely about his legacy, and has still got some burnishing to do if he hopes to rank with his idols.

For all the candidates, staying in the race is a way to make sure they finish the contest with their reputations enhanced. And the most tangible prize they seek is a speaking role at the Republican convention.

You might wonder whether giving a speech on prime-time television is really all that crucial. But just ask Patrick J. Buchanan, who ran for the GOP nomination in 1992 and 1996 and lost both times:

"You bet it is," Buchanan told me this week. "It's an opportunity, if people have been describing you in a way you don't think is right, to correct the picture. You can go down there and capture the country—unfiltered by the media. It is an unbelievable opportunity. It is an historic opportunity. Anybody who is offered it ought to grab it."

In 1992, Buchanan made a deal with the nominee, then-President George H.W. Bush, to deliver a full-throated endorsement in exchange for a half-hour of prime time. Buchanan's speech included the endorsement Bush wanted, but it was remembered mostly for Buchanan's declaration of a "culture war," a call to arms for social conservatives that many believe sent independent voters straight to the Democrats.

This time, Buchanan noted, whoever wins the nomination faces a ticklish problem: He'll have three defeated challengers to appease—"and only one hour of prime time each night."

"I think Romney's going to win, but he really has to go to work as a diplomat to bring the alliance together," he said. "Magnanimity will go a long way."

But that's a problem that can wait until summer. For now, Romney still needs to endure another month—or three—of battles. He needs to worry about the polls that show that his conservative rivals' punches are convincing voters that he's a wealthy opportunist who's out of touch. He needs to close the deal, the sooner the better. Because the longer he's forced to compete with Santorum, Gingrich and Paul for votes from conservatives, the harder it may be for him to win votes from independents in the fall.

Poor Mitt.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Politics 101: Respect your constituents

By HEYBET AMRAH

THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING

GUBA, Azerbaijan—Memo to politicians everywhere in the world: It's not a good idea to insult your constituents.

Rauf Habibov, the mayor of this small town in northern Azerbaijan, found that out the hard way when thousands of residents turned up in front of city hall demanding his removal.

It all began when Habibov made a speech recently in which he said, "Guba's inhabitants would sell their home country, their land, even their own family for 30 or 40 manats," or about \$360 to \$480.

And as any savvy politician today should expect, someone in the audience captured his comments on video and posted them on YouTube.

The reaction was predictable. Soon after the video appeared on the Internet, between 6,000 and 7,000 residents turned out in front of his office, demanding Habibov's resignation.

Police tried to disperse the crowd, arresting around 25 protesters, beating others with truncheons and firing tear gas into the crowd. But instead of dispersing, the crowd continued to grow.

Habibov, who had served as mayor since 2007, attempted to make an appearance before the crowd and offer an apology. He even offered to resign on the spot. But the crowd was having none of it.

"We are not protesting against the government. Our dissatisfaction is aimed at one specific person," one of the demonstrators, Aghahuseyn Hashimov, said later. "From day one, he has addressed Guba's residents disrespectfully. He has abused the rights of businessmen and ordinary people. He behaves like a regional boss rather than an administration head (mayor). And people's patience had to run out at some point."

As the crowd grew with each passing hour, the demonstration became more violent, with protesters smashing windows in the local government building, and burning two buildings owned by Habibov. Authorities called in the riot police and interior ministry troops. But this only served to further enrage the crowd.

Finally, by midafternoon, Azerbaijan's transport minister Zia Mammadov, along with a local member of parliament, Vahid Ahmadov, and a representative from President Ilham Aliyev's office arrived on the scene.

Ahmadov appealed for calm, saying, "You can't resolve prob-

lems by burning down houses. Your protest is being discussed at the very highest level. Please be sensible and control your emotions."

The three politicians apologized on Habibov's behalf, and promised that all the protesters detained would be released and would not face prosecution. The same evening, Guba's deputy mayor, Sahib Mammadov, announced that Habibov had formally resigned and that he would be taking over.

"Guba's residents of course have a right to be unhappy. But I do regret that a matter that could have been resolved peacefully ended in mass disturbances," Mammadov told the crowd.

Protesters like Rasim Abubakirov, however, made it clear that their actions were directed against a specific individual, rather than a political ideology.

"Look, we came to this protest carrying portraits of President Aliyev," he said. "That shows that we are not acting in anyone's political interests. We just want to be respected."

Heybet Amrah is a reporter in Azerbaijan who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Relaxing restrictions on Chinese and Brazilian visitors endangers US security

WASHINGTON—President Obama's willingness to sacrifice national security to raise his public approval rating was glaringly evident when he flew to Disney World in mid-January to tout looser visa restrictions for Brazilian and Chinese visitors to the United States.

While the leaders of Brazil and China often take anti-U.S. positions on the world stage, Obama claimed the move would help the slumping travel industry by bringing millions of new free-spenders into the country without weakening national security.

Symbolically, the president made his announcement standing at the entrance to Fantasyland during the final stages of the Republican primary in Florida, a state where recent polls show him struggling badly after a narrow victory in 2008.

Obama also said he will expand the Bush-era Visa Waiver Program that eliminated rigorous in-person interviews that allowed officials at U.S. consulates to better determine if applicants pose genuine security risks.

That program was temporarily suspended after the 9/11 attacks over concerns that many of the terrorists were able to enter the U.S. because of its weak provisions.

Obama pooh-poohed such concerns at his pep rally in Disney World. "The more folks who visit the America, the more folks we get back to work; it's that simple," he said, claiming his administration can relax rules for foreign visitors while fully protecting America's borders.

Yet recent actions by Brazil and China seem to undercut the president's campaign-driven nonchalance.

Brazil increasingly is undercutting U.S. interests by restricting the free flow of U.S. goods and services into its markets, while damaging Florida's citrus industry by sending huge amounts of orange juice into this country at cut-rate prices. Free trade, apparently, flows in one direction.

In recent years, its leftist governments have aligned themselves with Venezuela's anti-American dictator Hugo Chavez and Iran's crazed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. U.S. intelligence officials have issued recent warnings that Brazil is rapidly becoming a key base for al-Qaida and other Islamic jihadists in the Western Hemi-

By AMY RIDENOUR

National Center for Public Policy Research

Amy Ridenour is chairman of the conservative National Center for Public Policy Research, 501 Capitol Court NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; email: aridenour@nationalcenter.org; website: www.nationalcenter.org.



sphere. Brazil no longer considers Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist groups and disbanded its anti-terrorism force in 2009.

PRO

China, of course, has been conducting economic warfare against the United States for more than two decades—stealing our valuable military technology, manipulating its currency to increase artificially exports to the United States, hacking into our computer networks and engaging in an unprecedented naval buildup in the Pacific Ocean.

Given China's economic aggressiveness, it's difficult to see how allowing more Chinese visitors into this country would create any new American jobs. More likely it would result in the continuing exodus of well-paying manufacturing jobs to China.

Obama's self-serving relaxation of security rules for hundreds of thousands of Brazilians and Chinese is cynical in the extreme—especially so when you consider the Government Accountability Office conceded last year that there still is no effective way to track the more than 70 million foreign visitors who annually come to these shores on tourist and other short-term visas. The GAO also has estimated that half of the nation's estimated illegal aliens are people who have overstayed their visas.

Although the official unemployment rate has dipped below 9 percent, nearly 20 percent of Americans still are unemployed, underemployed or have given up looking for work.

Adding a few low-paying baggage handlers and amusement park employees won't do much to lower those distressing numbers, but it did provide Mr. Obama with a beautiful photo opportunity in Fantasyland.

President's plan will help put US back on top as world's No. 1 travel destination

WASHINGTON—President Obama's decision to speed-up visa processing for low-risk Chinese and Brazilian travelers will give the recovering U.S. economy a welcome jolt of new energy this summer and beyond.

The president's executive order, which he announced at Disney World earlier this year, is projected to create 1.3 million jobs and produce more than \$860 billion in economic activity.

The first wave of new Chinese and Brazilian business and leisure travelers could come early this summer, given the demand at the five U.S. consulates in China and the four in Brazil.

The president also would eliminate the need for citizens from Taiwan to obtain a visa—a privilege already afforded to travelers from Australia, Japan, South Korea and 33 other American allies.

From 2000 to 2010, the U.S. experienced a lost decade when it came to attracting international visitors to our country. The United States issued 7.6 million visas in 2001 but only 5.8 million in 2009. That number grew to 6.4 mil-

By ROGER DOW

U.S. Travel Association

Roger Dow is president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association. Readers may write to him at the U.S. Travel Association, 1100 New York Avenue NW, Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20005.



and India is expected to grow by 274 percent, 135 percent and 50 percent respectively over the next four years. Faster visa processing will help ensure that many of those travelers will come to America.

Additionally, President Obama's decision to make permanent the Global Entry Program will also encourage more visitors to come to the United States. The program makes the customs process more efficient for travelers who pass rigorous advance background checks.

Americans should rest assured that speeding up our tourist turnstiles does not mean relaxing post-9/11 security measures. The fact is that our surveillance and security systems, and the technology that buttresses them, have become increasingly sophisticated over the last decade. Making the entry process more efficient for highly trusted travelers allows our nation's security force to concentrate on more likely suspects and expands its overall effectiveness.

In short, the president's moves should be hailed as a smart new national strategy that will increase travel

not only to America's many attractions, but also to commercial events like trade shows and business conferences.

As President Obama noted in Orlando, the new proposals mean that "America is open for business" once again—a strong measure that can help jumpstart our economic recovery in 2012.

Considering their economic impact, international travelers—in increasing numbers—are about to become some of America's best friends in 2012.

Editor's Note: The writers are addressing the question, "Will the decision to speed visas for foreign visitors boost the U.S. economy?"

lion in 2010 but is still lower than it was 10 years ago. The president's new initiative to spur job creation by welcoming more global travelers to our country can help put the United States back on top as the world's No. 1 destination.

The United States has long been a favored vacation spot for Brazil's growing middle-class, but long lines and lengthy waits can act as a detriment that persuades many to flock to nearby Caribbean islands or pay more to go to Europe. That said, the number of travelers from such full-throttle economies as Brazil, China

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

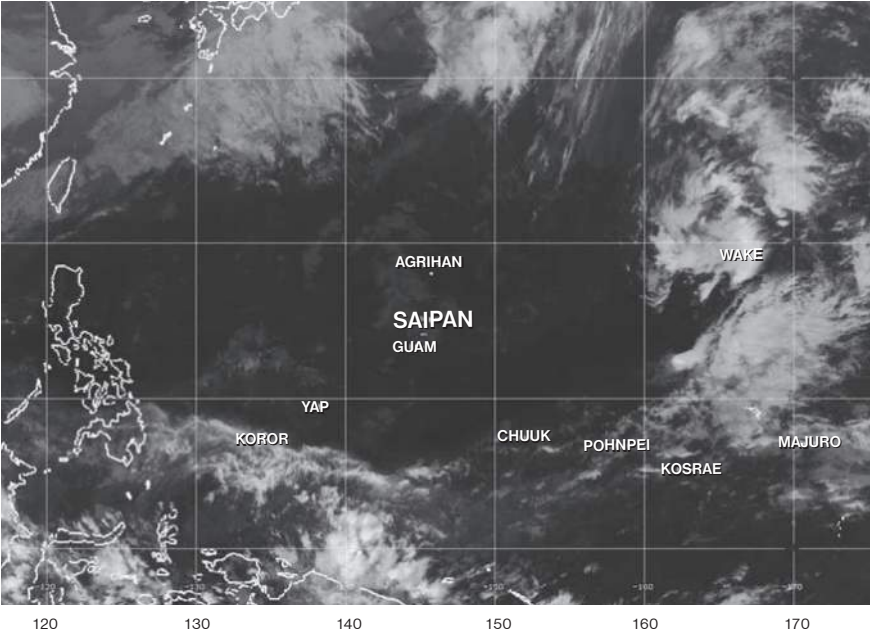
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲ 70 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 35
Osaka	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 30
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 42
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 24
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 37

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
8:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
9:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 2N130E to end near EQ142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring well south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 4N130E to 3N142E. A large upper-level low centered southwest of Wake Island near 16N160E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just northwest of Wake Island within 250 miles of a line from 17N160E to 25N169E. Cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northeast of Kosrae over Kwajalein within 250 miles of a line from 6N164E to 14N172E to 20N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:17 PM	7:27 AM
Sunday	9:18 PM	8:16 AM
Monday	10:21 PM	9:08 AM
Tuesday	11:23 PM	10:02 AM
Wednesday		11:00 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's			
Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Amen Church Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm			
(Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am			
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
Victorious Christian Church (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 10, 1999

Review on bids for project enters second phase
Saying it is “extremely pleased” with the findings of an independent evaluator, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. agreed yesterday to conduct a second round of review on the long-stalled power plant on Saipan in efforts to determine the contractor of the \$120 million project. “We are in the right direction,” said board chair Juan S. Dela Cruz. “There will be a second round of review. I hope that it will come early so we can have a decision right away on who will build the plant as soon as possible.” The announcement followed a closed-door meeting at the Hafa Adai Hotel in which CUC directors discussed a preliminary report on the initial review of the private engineering firm Burns & McDonnell.

Senate tackles CIP bill today
The Senate holds its session today after it postponed voting last week on crucial legislative proposals, including a pending measure setting aside close to \$23 million for capital improvement projects that aims to stir the sluggish economy. Members will also vote on a legislative initiative seeking a referendum on a proposed five-year stay limit for guest workers in the CNMI, as well as a resolution granting powers to the Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations Committee to reopen investigation into the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Mar. 10, 2000

CDA told to promote NMI as investment site
As part of the efforts to spur economic growth, the House of Representatives yesterday adopted a resolution calling on the Commonwealth Development Authority to intensify an information campaign promoting the island’s investment potential. The lower chamber likewise urged CDA to organize trade missions to the U.S. mainland, Asia and Europe composed of private sector representatives and government officials to help market the CNMI as a good investment site. CDA, the chief government lending agency, has the financing capability, technical expertise, and business and investment prowess necessary to develop an investment promotional prospectus about the island that will be distributed worldwide, according to the resolution.

Deliberation on new FTZ bill underway
The House Commerce and Tourism Committee has begun deliberation on a new measure creating free trade zones in the CNMI after the initial legislation was rejected by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio due to differences on some of its key provisions. Under the bill introduced by Rep. Diego T. Benavente in the 12th House of Representatives, amendments made by the Senate concerning use of public lands on Rota and Tinian were struck out to be consistent with the original proposal drawn up by the administration. This is exactly the same measure passed by the previous Legislature, but was vetoed by the governor last month because of its failure to address issues surrounding the use of public lands.

Mar. 10, 2003

BOE opposes beautification tax
Citing lack of consultation and foresight on the part of the Legislature, the Board of Education has criticized the recent passage of the Environmental Beautification Tax Act and asked that it be amended to exempt CNMI’s educational institutions from its coverage. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero and board member Marja Lee Taitano described the law as self-defeating. “On one hand, they have this educational tax credit. On the other hand, there’s this beatification tax. It’s ludicrous. There’s lack of planning. It could be that the Legislature passed it without intending to hurt the schools. But there’s always repercussions. They don’t think too far. They’re just reacting to the moment. And as such, they’re passing a bad bill,” Guerrero said.

CUC to fund own building project
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has decided to build and fund its own building project. “The CUC is moving forward according to the executive director with its plan to design, build, and finance its own administration building,” said CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis. The agency is now looking at three possible sites, including Lower Base, and Mathis said the CUC is working with the Marianas Public Lands Authority for the most viable site. Mathis said the CUC is also working with the Office of the Governor in finding a new bill collection office for residents living on Capital Hill, as well as in Marpi and the Kagman areas.

Maharlika

Volunteers vow to continue free health screenings for OFWs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipino volunteers who donate their time and resources to the Philippine Consulate General for the quarterly free health screening are vowing to continue providing service to the Filipino community even after the Consulate closes down later this year.

Volunteers from organizations like the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, the CNMI Pharmacist Association, and Hardt Eye Clinic gave this reassurance at the Consulate's first quarter health screening held on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza on March 4.

The event benefited 93 Filipino workers who availed of the eye/vision checkups, a 43-percent increase compared to the last health screening in December.

Meanwhile, a total of 283 individuals availed of the blood sugar and blood pressure screenings, posting a 34-percent surge compared to 211 in December.

Sunday's event also saw 15 Filipino workers signing up for membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Many Filipinos who attended the event expressed their concern that the quarterly health screening will fizzle out once the Consulate closes down in July or August.

"They really are worried," said Ernie Molina, a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center who has been coordinating fellow nurse volunteers for the event for 17 years. "This health screening is a significant help for many Filipino workers who do not have insurance and cannot afford the high cost of medical services on island."

He said a number of Filipino workers who regularly avail of the quarterly



Volunteers pose for the camera in the Consulate's first quarter health screening held on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza on March 4.

health screening are anxious to know if the event will continue on.

"I told them that we will never get tired of helping them as I plan to talk to the United Filipino Organization and see if we can work together to continue the health screening for our *kababayans*," said Molina.

Molina said that once the Consulate closes down, they are looking at holding the health screening at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe, with plans to hold the event every two months so that those who have high blood pressure and borderline blood sugar levels can have more follow up checkups.

He plans to provide the Division of Parks and Recreation an advanced

schedule of their health screenings so the pavilion can be reserved on those dates for the health screening.

According to Molina, materials and supplies for the health screening won't be a problem since they can ask for these from the Division of Public Health and from pharmacies on island.

Even manpower, he said, is also not a concern given that the volunteers are willing to continue providing services for the Filipino community.

Marivic Callejo, a member of the Association of Filipino Pharmacists in the CNMI, said their group will coordinate with Molina and continue their involvement in the health screening.

"Health is really wealth. It's very

important especially here in the CNMI where you pay a lot for a doctor's checkup and most of our *kababayans* can't afford it. As we get older, the more we need to take care of ourselves because we get more prone to diseases," she said.

Ruel Balboa, optical lab technician at Hardt Eye Clinic, said their group will also support whoever will be taking over the logistics of the health screening.

"We're still willing to volunteer our services because we believe in community service," he said. "We try to help others when we can, particularly when it comes to eye care. We want more people to become aware of how to care

for their vision because they will be the ones to benefit in the end."

But Balboa noted that unlike blood sugar and blood pressure screenings, vision checkups need to be conducted in a shaded area with power since they have to set up and protect the equipment they use with patients.

CHC's Molina also pointed out that one other problem would be the chairs and tables to be used as well as refreshments for the volunteers since it is the Consulate that provides for it during health screenings.

Molina said that since they plan to work with the UFO, they are looking at different organizations every time to sponsor these snacks for the volunteers and donate the needed fixtures for the event. Filipino restaurants and businesses can also be tapped to subsidize refreshments, he added.

"I'm positive that we can make this happen. We want to assure the Filipino community that we'll do everything to continue these health screenings because we understand their need," he said.

As much as they want to help, Molina also urged the Filipino community to learn to help themselves by maintaining a healthy lifestyle through proper diet and exercise.

"They have to remember that prevention is always better than cure," he added.

POLO, OWWA to move to FWRC room

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration will have a new office next month.

Welfare officer Julie Fabian confirmed yesterday that they will move to the Filipino Workers Resource Center at Room 106 of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe by April.

Fabian said they received official instructions from their main office in Manila regarding their transfer, part of cost-cutting measures.

"It's only practical given that there are only two of us left in the office," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

At present, POLO and OWWA are holding offices in Room 105. Only Fabian and another staff, Antonette Rosario Ocon, are in charge of both offices.

Fabian noted that their ongoing training courses will not be affected by their office transfer. She said the classes will continue at FWRC since they will be staying in the next room, which has enough space to accommodate them and the computer equipment used for the computer courses.

According to Fabian, they will start moving their equipment and files with the help of Filipino volunteers by Monday.

"But we would like to emphasize to all the members of the Filipino community that until the end of this month, we will still offer our services at our current office in Room 105," Fabian noted. (Clarissa V. David)

UFO thanks Docomo for *Pusong Pinoy* sponsorship



United Filipino Organization officers and members led by Bong Malasarte, fourth right, present a certificate of appreciation to Docomo Pacific general manager for Saipan operations James Nelson, fourth left, in a ceremony at the latter's office in Gualo Rai on March 7.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Filipino Organization officers and members presented certificates of appreciation to Docomo Pacific officials for the company's support in the first ever *Pusong Pinoy* event on Feb. 12.

UFO president Bong Malasarte led the presentation to Docomo Pacific general manager for Saipan operations James Nelson and staffer Lei Hicaro at their office in Gualo Rai on Wednesday.

"I wanted to personally hand this to you so I can thank you on behalf of the

entire membership of UFO for helping us make *Pusong Pinoy* a success," Malasarte told Nelson.

Docomo Pacific sponsored UFO's first ever Valentine celebration held at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe and highlighted by the Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* beauty pageant won by 15-year-old

Saipan Southern High School lass Maria Angelica Malasarte.

Nelson, who was in the Philippines during the event, said Docomo Pacific is delighted to show their support to the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the Commonwealth.

"I've been with Docomo for several years and I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Bong about a year ago and I must say that his leadership is commendable because they're organized," he said.

Nelson said they are "very glad" to contribute to the UFO and their many and "quality" projects and activities that the community enjoys each year.

"I'm really proud of the fact that we're doing quality projects together and supporting UFO is something I intend to do as we keep moving forward," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte, for his part, said their group is excited to continue working with Docomo Pacific for their upcoming events, including the inter-organizational basketball league.

"We are extremely grateful to Docomo Pacific for sponsoring *Pusong Pinoy*," he said. "They were instrumental in the success of our Valentine event and we, too, look forward to the continued partnership between UFO and Docomo Pacific."

2010 STOCK ESTIMATE OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

9.45 million overseas Filipinos in 217 countries, territories

By COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT

The Stock Estimate of Filipinos Overseas is the aggregate of all Philippine-born Filipinos, residing or working overseas. It categorizes overseas Filipinos into permanent, temporary and irregular migrants.

Permanent migrants include immigrants, dual citizens or legal permanent residents abroad, whose stay do not depend on work contracts.

Temporary migrants include those whose stay overseas is employment related, and who are expected to return at the end of their work contracts. Though most temporary migrants are overseas Filipino workers, they also include students, trainees, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and others whose stay abroad is six months or more, and their accompanying dependents. Irregular migrants are those not properly documented or without valid residence or work permits, or who are overstaying in a foreign country.

The passage of Republic Act 10022 amending the Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Act and its implementing rules in 2010, expanded the definition of the term overseas Filipinos to refer "to migrant workers, other Filipino nationals and their dependents abroad."

The following are the highlights of the 2010 Stock Estimate:

■ According to the International Organization for Migration's World Migration Report 2010, the number of international migrants was estimated at 214 million in 2010. About 4 percent of this number or 9.45 million are overseas Filipinos in about 217 countries and territories.

■ The permanent migrants (47 percent or 4.42 million) comprise the largest category of overseas Filipinos, followed closely by temporary migrants (45 percent or 4.32 million). The irregular migrants (8 percent or 704,916) constitute the smallest category. Compared with last year's data, the number of permanent and temporary and irregular migrants increased by 9 percent, 12 percent, and 8 percent, respectively.

■ Compared with 2000 data, the number of permanent and temporary migrants increased by 73 percent and 45 percent, respectively while the irregular migrants decreased by 62 percent.

■ The breakdown of Filipino overseas by continent/region: Americas and trust territories, 3.88 million or 41 percent; West Asia or Middle East, 2.85 million or 30 percent; Southeast Asia, 1.23 million or 13 percent; Europe, 663,889 or 7 percent; Oceania, 400,800 or 4 percent; and Africa, 74,483 or 1 percent. The remaining 4 percent are sea-based workers.

■ The top 10 destination countries of Filipinos are the United States (33 percent), Saudi Arabia (16 percent), Canada (7 percent), UAE (7 percent), Australia (4 percent), Malaysia (3 percent), Japan (3 percent), UK (2 percent), Hong Kong (2 percent) and Kuwait (2 percent). All of these countries are also last year's top 10 destination countries except for Kuwait.

■ Based on the 2010 records of the CFO, there were 86,075 who registered as Filipino emigrants. These are Filipinos petitioned by their families and relatives to live permanently overseas, spouses, and other partners of foreign nationals and immigrant workers. Most Filipinos immigrate and settle permanently in the

U.S., Canada, and Australia.

■ Based on the 2010 records of the POEA, 1.47 million Filipinos were deployed to work overseas. Of this figure, 76 percent (1.12 million) were land-based and 24 percent (347,150) were sea-based. OFWs usually work in service, production, and health sectors. Most OFWs are bound for the Middle East and Asia, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Hong Kong, countries that lack local manpower that would sustain their respective economies.

■ Irregular migrants could be found mainly in the United States, Malay-

sia, and Singapore.

■ Based on the 2010 records of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, overseas Filipinos remitted US\$18.76 billion. In 2011, remittances reached US\$20.11 billion. The top three sources of remittances came from the United States, Canada, and Saudi Arabia. These remittances were estimated to account for around 10 percent of the Philippine Gross Domestic Product.

■ For the last five years, there is an increasing trend of Filipinos migrating overseas, with an annual average rate of 6 percent.

Sources: The primary sources for the computation of the Stock Estimate are the annual administrative data and estimates of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Department of Foreign Affairs. The secondary sources are the censuses of host countries, and reports of Filipino communities abroad, among others.

Limitations: No comprehensive data on returning Filipino migrants. The stock estimate does not also completely capture data on Filipinos who are already abroad when they changed immigration status or when they migrated to another country.



COURTESY CALL

U.S. Pinoy for Good Governance officials and members have their picture taken with Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario and Ambassador Cecilia Rebong. From left, Dr. Bambi Loric, MD (Maryland), Gus Mercado (Texas) of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, DFA Secretary Albert Del Rosario, USP4GG chairperson attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, Ambassador Cecilia Rebong, and Eric Lachica, (Washington DC) and organizer of US Medicare PH, Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FOR FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS IN MALAYSIA

Job perks matter, not permanent stay

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—There is a swagger in Roy as he holds up a tray filled with used plates and wine glasses.

Seeing an Iranian customer who is almost done with her breakfast, the Iloilo province native says, "I will take care of your plate, Madame."

He is also very kind in directing traffic for Bangladeshi workmate Zaif and fellow workers at Warisan Café inside the Royale Chulan Hotel here. He tells a fellow foreign worker to bring a pitcher of cold water right away even before the customer can think to ask for it.

The adrenaline's up for this Filipino, now on his 14th straight day—without relief—working at the hotel that gives the "usual" rate of RM5 (PhP 70 at RM1 = PhP14) an hour.

Roy started at 7am and ended at 5pm that Wednesday. The energy level was perhaps a result of the amnesty that this former irregular (or what Malaysians call "illegal") migrant worker just got weeks ago from Malaysian Immigration.

After a day's work, Roy went to the posh Pavilion mall behind Royale Chulan—in shorts and slippers—while local and foreign buyers sport flashy office wear and shoes.

"I still believe I am a professional," says this BS Industrial Technology

(major in Electronics) graduate of the Western Visayas College of Science and Technology. "From the once many Filipinos who worked there when the hotel first opened shop two years ago, a few of us remain. My bosses like my work ethic."

All that Roy currently has—the "proper" English accent (American or Filipino style), the work ethic, the praise from supervisors, and yes, the legal immigration status—has made Roy's market value shoot up.

Now that a Malaysian government-owned corporation has launched a program where foreign talent and skill in identified sectors may be given up to a 10-year residence pass to stay in Southeast Asia's second largest economy, Roy doesn't have any more reason to hide in fear.

In the end, though, it is about a Malaysian company's ability to give foreign professionals like Roy a better work package. "If neighboring hotels can offer me better rates," says the 35-year-old, "I am ready to take it."

Needed

Skilled foreign workers like Roy and Allan Cabiles (a graduate of Automotive Engineering Technology at the Technological University of the Philippines in Manila) are what Malaysia needs to further economic growth.

Cabiles and over 20 other Filipino



Cabiles

workers, in fact, were sought after by The Otomotif College, an international school for the automotive industry. "I have been to Manila many times," says Otomotif

chief executive officer Adelaine Foo, a Malaysian-Chinese at the sidelines of an education conference here.

Most of TOC's foreign employees are Filipinos, including one of Foo's trusted aides Cabiles, who heads TOC's training division. The Filipino's educational qualifications, claims Foo, also suit TOC's needs and, not surprisingly, his English proficiency is his added value.

"You can't be a teacher at TOC without the appropriate college degree," says Cabiles—"lucky" that his salaries and benefits are "competitive" and have kept him at TOC.

Retaining foreign and Malaysian talent while trying to attract over-300,000 overseas skilled Malaysians back home are among the initiatives of the year-old Talent Corporation (TalentCorp) that Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak formed.

Others may find surprising that skilled locals are leaving Malaysia and heading to "better-paying" countries like Singapore, Australia, Brunei

Darussalam, the United Kingdom, the United States, and New Zealand, a World Bank-Malaysia office report showed. Even a 2011-2012 competitiveness report by the World Economic Forum showed that the brain drain incidence in Malaysia and Singapore is higher than the Philippines.

Which is why TalentCorp launched, among other programs, a Residence Pass program where "highly-qualified" foreign talent who have been in Malaysia for at least three years can apply for this pass so that they can stay for up to 10 years [Expatriates, or what Malaysians call skilled foreign workers, renew their RPs annually].

The RP will not be revoked if these expatriates change employers while they are not yet renewing it. These expatriates who have their spouses and children under 18 years old with them will also be awarded the same benefits and flexibility in finding work.

These talents must be working in 11 sectors that the Malaysian government identified as National Key Economic Areas in Tun Razak's Economic Transformation Programme since becoming Malaysia's sixth prime minister in 2009. These sectors are: oil, gas and energy; palm oil; financial services; business services; electronics and electrical; wholesale and retail; education; health-care; communications, content and infrastructure; tourism; and agriculture.

Better terms

Roy and Allan are working in the tourism and education sectors, making them eligible to apply for that

10-year residence pass.

But salaries do matter for them. Old 2006 data from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office show that an engineer can earn a low of US\$420 to a high of US\$840 monthly; senior engineers can get a low of US\$840 and a high of US\$1,400.

Wait 'til one Filipino expatriate becomes a manager (low of US\$1,600 to a high of US\$3,200), or an executive (low of US\$3,200 to a high of US\$25,584). Filipino expatriates' rates, says POLO data, are higher than counterparts coming from other labor-sending countries.



Villa

This package from TalentCorp will be good news to over 4,000 professionals and technical Filipino workers as well as to a few hundred administrative and managerial workers. Overseas Filipino workers heading to Malaysia are mostly female domestic workers, all "protected" by a Philippine ruling that foreign employers must pay trained domestic workers a minimum of US\$400.

But knowing Filipino workers here, Consul Renato Villa of the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur thinks they will look for better-paying employers while noting that the package offered by TalentCorp is not permanent residency but a temporary residence permit.

Singapore's not far away for Filipinos, too, Villa told the *OFW Journalism Consortium*.

Samu't Sari



IN APPRECIATION

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, seated center, is flanked by other officers and members at the Docomo Pacific office in Gualo Rai on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID



Docomo Pacific's Lei Hicaro, second right, receives her certificate of appreciation from United Filipino Organization officers and members at Docomo general manager for Saipan operations James Nelson's office last March 7.



HEALTH SCREENING

Dr. Esther Kanayorn gives health advice to Filipino workers at the free health screening held at the Filipino Workers Resource Center last March 4.



Filipino medical volunteers take a break from the free health screening event on Sunday.



A Hardt Eye Clinic volunteer, right, assists a vision screening patient during the free health screening at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Sunday.



Welfare officer Julie Fabian, right, assists a Filipino worker for renewal of her membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration last March 4.



Hardt Eye Clinic's Ruel Balboa joins Consulate staffers Hazel and Yen for a souvenir photo at the free health screening last Sunday.



A Filipino worker gets his blood pressure checked last Sunday.



FISHERS' FORUM

Neil Kanemoto shows various small boat fishing gear during the Fishers Forum hosted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council last March 5.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy Sweet "21st" birthday to Rosalie "Pak-Pak" and may you have many, many more to come.

Your power puff girls are looking forward to tonight. Greetings come from your kids, family, and members of your book club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

iPad dominates due to Apple's supply deals

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple certainly has lots of buzz and corporate cache behind its products, but there's a hidden—almost mundane—reason its newest iPad is likely to dominate the competition: the advantageous deals the company cuts with components manufacturers.

Apple's size, and the fact that the iPad shares components with the highly popular iPhone, means that the company can buy crucial parts such as processing chips and display screens at lower prices. Any company that wants to make a tablet computer that matches the iPad's \$499 starting price has to endure higher costs.

As a result, Apple's tablet-making competitors have flailed—and failed. And with the new iPad, Apple is expected to extend its 62 percent market share in the tablet computer category it created. IMS Research expects Apple to capture 70 percent of the market this year.

A year ago, scores of companies all thought they had a shot at emulating Apple's success. More than 100 tablet models were on display at the annual consumer electronics trade show in Las Vegas in January 2011. Many of them ran on the Android operating system, developed by Silicon Valley powerhouse Google.

As the year progressed, those dreams crumbled. The iPad 2, launched in March, proved nearly unassailable.

A big part of the reason was that Apple has priced the iPad aggressively. At just under \$500 for the basic model, Apple's profit margin on the device is lower than on the iPhone, a smaller device for which it charges phone companies a wholesale rate of \$600 or more.

On Wednesday, Apple stuck to that price point when it unveiled the new iPad model. It has a screen that displays sharper images and deeper, more vibrant colors to set it apart from the competition. The new tablet goes on sale March 16 in the U.S. and several other countries.

Apple has other advantages, too. The company sells about a third of all iPads in its own stores or from its website. By cutting out the middleman, Apple is able to keep more of the

slim profit margin for itself.

Because it produces tens of millions of iPads and uses some of the same components as the highly popular iPhone, Apple can buy crucial components such as chips and displays at lower prices.

According to research firm IHS iSuppli, Apple is the world's largest buyer of the microprocessor chips that serve as the "brains" of various devices. In January 2011, Apple said it had spent \$3.9 billion on long-term contracts to secure supplies for two years of a "very strategic" component it wouldn't name. Few other companies are able to commit that much money.

Many suppliers are happy to sell to Apple, given the company's success in mobile products. ARM Holdings PLC, a British chip-maker that licenses the technology used in iPhone and iPad chips, for instance, saw its stock rise nearly 4 percent Thursday, a day after Apple unveiled iPads with faster processors. Other Apple suppliers, including Cirrus Logic Inc., Jabil Circuit Inc. and Skyworks Solutions, have all experienced healthy stock gains in

Newest iPad

Apple's new iPad features an improved screen and is the first Apple device to feature a 4G connection.

Available March 16 for \$499-829

2048 x 1536 resolution
Twice that of the iPad 2; able to show movies in full HD

Upgrades

- Faster processor; quad-core graphics chip
- HD video recording
- 5 megapixel camera
- Voice dictation

New iPad

On/off Back camera FaceTime camera

0.37 in. (9.4 mm) Dock connector Home button

iPad 2
Only 16 GB still available

Weight 1.3 lb. (601 g)

Thickness 0.35 in. (8.8 mm)

Camera Dual; VGA quality

Price \$399-529

NOTE: Prices do not include a data plan for the 3G, 4G models
Source: Apple
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2012 MCT

of a tablet failure comes from Research In Motion Ltd., the maker of the BlackBerry.

In late 2010, RIM's co-CEO at the time, Jim Balsillie, said interest in the planned PlayBook tablet was "really overwhelming," particularly from corporate customers, a key market for BlackBerry phones. In March, just before it launched, Balsillie said the PlayBook "may well be the most significant development for RIM since the launch of the first BlackBerry device back in 1999."

But the PlayBook was widely panned because of its software, which RIM had put together. It was also expensive. It cost the same as an entry-level iPad 2 despite being half as big.

When sales failed to materialize, RIM had to slash the price of the PlayBook from \$500 to \$200. It ended up taking a pre-tax charge of \$485 million for the declining value of its inventory.

Other manufacturers slashed prices too, culminating in a "fire sale" during the recent holiday season, said Rhoda Alexander, an analyst who covers tablets for IHS iSuppli.

As household wealth rises, so do hopes for economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are climbing further out of the hole they sank into during the Great Recession.

A stock rally at the end of 2011 helped rebuild more of their lost wealth—a trend that carried into 2012. Households responded by borrowing more for the first time since the financial crisis began, even as their home values fell further.

Americans' wealth rose 2.1 percent to \$58.5 trillion in the October-December quarter, the sharpest gain in a year, the Federal Reserve reported Thursday. Still, it would have to rise an additional 13 percent to return to its pre-recession peak.

Driving the gains were stock portfolios, which surged nearly 10 percent in the fourth quarter. And stocks have since risen further. Since early October, the Standard & Poor's 500 index has jumped 24 percent.

Neerja Pahwa is sensing a difference.

Pahwa, a flight attendant and fragrance consultant from St. Louis, still hasn't recouped all the investment losses she suffered during the recession.

But she now feels comfortable enough about her finances to eat out and stop by Starbucks more frequently. She recently made a down payment on a retirement home in Florida.

"Things are looking brighter and sunnier," said Pahwa, 64, who hopes to retire next year—if the economy keeps improving. "I don't have too much in my pocket. But I know it's coming. Things are only going to get better."

Household wealth, or net worth, reflects the value of assets like homes, bank accounts and stocks, minus debts like mortgages and credit cards. It bottomed during the recession at \$49 trillion in the first quarter of 2009. It's still well below its pre-recession peak of \$66 trillion.

The Fed's quarterly report documents most of the financial transactions that occur in the United States.

Greater net worth tends to boost the economy. When people feel wealthier, they typically spend more. Businesses respond by stepping up plans to hire and expand.

Another month of strong hiring expected for Feb.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers likely added more than 200,000 jobs for a third straight month in February, adding to evidence that the recovery is building momentum.

Economists forecast that the economy likely generated a net gain of 210,000 jobs, according to FactSet. That's below January's 243,000 jobs but still a healthy figure. The unemployment rate, which has fallen for five straight months, is projected to stay 8.3 percent.

If the unemployment rate were to fall for a sixth straight month, it would mark the first such streak since 1984.

It will be hard to match the jobs report for January. The

employment gains came from across many industries and up and down the pay scale. Manufacturing, restaurants and hotels, retail, and professional services such as accounting all reported big job gains.

A key reason why the unemployment rate has dropped since last year is that many out-of-work people have stopped looking for work. Only people without jobs who are actively seeking one are counted as unemployed.

A sustained rise in the number of people looking for jobs would be a good sign, even if it pushed up the unemployment rate.

Friday's report comes as a host of data points to an improving economy and job market.

Weekly applications for unemployment benefits have fallen about 14 percent in six months. Though they ticked up last week, average applications remain near a four-year low.

On Wednesday, payroll provider ADP said businesses added 216,000 employees last month, up from January's total. (The ADP report doesn't include governments, which have been cutting jobs.) And service companies, which employ most Americans, are expanding at a faster pace, according to a private survey released this week. A gauge of employment shows that service firms are still hiring, particularly in the mining, educational services, and transportation and warehousing industries.

The service sector includes everything from restaurants and hotels to health care firms and financial service companies.

Some companies must hire because they can't squeeze more output from their current staffs. Last year, worker productivity rose at its slowest pace in nearly 25 years. That means companies will likely have to add staff to meet growing demand.

Other figures point to the same conclusion. Employees are working more hours, a good sign for future hiring. In January, workers put in an average 34.5 hours a week. That's up from 33.8 in the recession and almost back to pre-recession levels of 34.6.

Oil rises to near \$107 ahead of key US jobs report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose slightly to near \$107 a barrel Friday in Asia ahead of a key U.S. employment report that will give insight into the strength of the world's No. 1 economy and demand for crude.

Benchmark oil for April delivery was up 32 cents to \$106.90 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The

contract rose 42 cents to settle at \$106.58 per barrel in New York on Thursday.

Brent crude was up 5 cents at \$125.49 per barrel in London.

The Labor Department is scheduled to announce February employment figures later Friday. Analysts expect the economy added about 210,000 jobs last month. Strong jobs growth in December and January has bolstered confidence that economic growth and demand for oil is improving.

Crude has jumped from \$75 in October and \$96 last month as the U.S. economic recovery gathers momentum and Europe's debt crisis shows signs of stabilizing.

"It's obvious that speculators are investing in the market and creating a push higher on

prices, but the fact remains that we are still dealing with tight crude supply in the U.S.," said Carl Larry of Oil Opinions and Outlooks. "Oil prices, if they do come off, won't see much lower than \$100."

"We're on the road to recovery and despite the move to more fuel efficient vehicles, it's not going to stop the increase in demand," he said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO			LEADING INDICATORS			EXCHANGE RATES		
	DOW	12,907.94	S&P	1,365.91	NASDAQ	2,970.42	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7604
		+70.61		+13.28		+34.73	Indian Rupee	50.3018
		+0.55%		+0.98%		+1.18%	Singapore Dollar	1.2552
							South Korean Won	1,119.31
							Swiss Franc	0.9132
							Taiwan Dollar	29.5334
	Australian Dollar	0.9424	Japanese Yen	81.4332	New Zealand Dollar	1.2178	Thailand Baht	30.6560
	British Pound	0.6339	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0175				
	Canadian Dollar	0.9952						
	Chinese Yuan	6.3211						
	Euro	0.7575						

Nation

Romney is facing skepticism in Republican South

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Mitt Romney faces a tough sell in the Deep South. With Mississippi and Alabama primaries coming up next Tuesday, there's concern that he's too slick, not really a conservative. In a region where the evangelical vote is important, some are skeptical about his Mormon faith.

But if Romney wins the Republican nomination and it's a November choice between him and Democratic President Barack Obama, the former Massachusetts governor may be just good enough for some Southerners.

"If push comes to shove and he gets the nomination, I'll go in the voting booth like this and vote for him," says Mississippi retiree David Wilke, holding his nose.

Romney acknowledges that he faces an uphill battle in Tuesday's Southern primaries. In an interview Thursday with Birmingham, Ala., radio station WAPI, he said the Deep South contests would be "a bit of an



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney shakes hands during a campaign stop at the Port of Pascagoula on Thursday, March 8, 2012 in Pascagoula, Miss.

away game" for him.

Campaigning in Pascagoula, Miss., Romney said he is turning into an "unofficial Southerner."

"I'm learning to say 'y'all' and I like grits. Strange things are happening to me," he said jokingly.

Former House Speaker Newt

Gingrich, who represented Georgia for 20 years and now lives in Virginia, needs to win every state from South Carolina to Texas to get to the convention

this summer, spokesman R.C. Hammond says.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum's staff says he'll be aggressive in states where Gingrich expects to perform well.

Gingrich scored an early primary victory in South Carolina and won this week in Georgia. Romney added a Virginia win this week—Gingrich and Santorum weren't on the ballot—to his Jan. 31 win in Florida, which is culturally not entirely a Southern state, despite its geography. Santorum won Tennessee.

After Mississippi and Alabama next week, Louisiana votes March 24, North Carolina and Texas May 8, Arkansas May 22 and Texas May 29.

Santorum and Gingrich are invoking God and country as they campaign in Mississippi and Alabama. They're winning applause by saying Obama has been a weak ally for Israel, a point that resonates with Christian conservatives.

Romney and Obama also expressed support for Israel this week in speeches to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington, but Mary

Dockery, director of a Christian youth group in central Mississippi, said she's voting for Santorum because she believes he's the most pro-Israel candidate.

"In God's word, he tells us about the blessings of those people who support Israel," Dockery said at a Santorum rally Wednesday night at the Mississippi Agriculture Museum in Jackson.

Santorum didn't mention Gingrich during his appearance at the rally before about 400 people, but he drew parallels between Romney and Obama on the government's role in health care. A boy at the rally hollered, "Obamneycare," momentarily drawing attention.

"If we win in Mississippi, this will be a two-person race," Santorum told the audience, which included several families with young children and some people wearing tea party shirts.

Roughly 200 people turned out Thursday morning to hear Gingrich at a Jackson hotel. He spoke at length about oil production but got the most applause when he said Obama has an arrogant belief in big government.

2 children found living in abandoned school bus

SPLENDORA, Texas (AP)—The abandoned school bus had no engine and no front wheels. But there were crude curtains in the windows, an air conditioner and even bunk beds inside.

So when a postal worker repeatedly ran across two unkempt children at the scene, she grew concerned and this week contacted authorities to report that the pair had apparently been living there for months.

Now child welfare agents are trying to unravel the story of the siblings, a 5-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, whose parents are in prison and whose home was a dilapidated vehicle at the end of a muddy, one-lane road.

The postal carrier saw the kids Wednesday near Houston, and the two were swiftly placed in foster care while authorities investigate.

"The little girl's hair was just matted, like a stray dog's," Vanessa Picazo said.

The father of the pair said he never intended for the bus to be a permanent home. He said the family had planned to build a house at the site, which was now strewn with reeking trash.

"The house is normally clean. If me or my wife were there, it would not be in that



A Montgomery County sheriff's deputy walks away from an old school bus where two children were found living on their own Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in Splendora, Texas.

shape, I assure you," Mark Shorten said. "Our house would be completed or almost completed."

Randal McCann, a Louisiana attorney who represented the children's mother prior to her imprisonment, said the aunt had been taking care of the kids since the case against the parents was launched more than a year ago. The kids were not enrolled in school.

"It was believed by everybody involved in this case that (the aunt) was properly tending to those children. What I saw in the newspaper this morning was shocking," McCann said, referring to a report in the Houston Chronicle.

McCann said the aunt would often contact him but only to discuss the criminal case and not the children.

"But there was no indication

that the living conditions were as bad as those photographs," McCann said.

It was not clear how long the children had been living in the bus and whether the aunt lived with them or simply made visits.

A spokesman for Child Protective Services said authorities were less concerned about the bus itself than with children's overall well-being.

Senate rejects GOP environment, energy proposals

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate killed Republican-backed attempts to overturn several of President Barack Obama's environmental and energy policies Thursday as lawmakers worked against a March 31 deadline to keep aid flowing to more than 100,000 transportation construction projects around the country.

The two-year, \$109 billion transportation bill before the Senate has wide, bipartisan support, but has become a magnet for lawmakers' favorite causes and partisan gamesmanship. Among the amendments batted aside were GOP proposals to bypass Obama's concerns about the Keystone XL oil pipeline, to delay tougher air pollution standards for industrial boilers and to expand offshore oil drilling.

Action on those and other amendments came under an agreement between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., aimed at clearing the way for passage of the transportation bill next week.

Obama lobbied some Senate

Democrats by telephone ahead of the Keystone vote, urging them to oppose an amendment by Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., that would have prevented the president from intervening in decisions related to construction of the pipeline and would have speeded its approval. Pointing to the administration's environmental concerns about the project, which would carry tar sands oil from Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast, Republicans accused Obama of standing in the way greater oil supplies at a time when Americans are coping with rising gasoline prices.

But some Democrats, especially those from oil producing states, were torn between support for the pipeline and their support for the president. The amendment was defeated 56-42, even though 11 Democrats broke ranks to support it. Sixty votes were needed for passage.

Republican leaders jumped on the White House lobbying.

"Most Americans strongly support building this pipeline and the jobs that would come with it," McConnell said in a statement.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman opens fire at Pitt psych clinic; 2 dead

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A man armed with two semiautomatic handguns entered the lobby of a psychiatric clinic at the University of Pittsburgh on Thursday and

opened fire, killing one person and wounding several others before he was shot dead, apparently by campus police, the mayor said. Six people were wounded by the man's gunfire, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said. A seventh suffered

unspecified injuries but wasn't shot, officials said. The mayor stopped short of confirming the gunman was fatally shot by at least one University of Pittsburgh police officer who responded. But he confirmed "police acted admi-

rably and did engage in gunfire."

Jury: US can go after \$330M in Stanford accounts

HOUSTON (AP)—A Texas jury cleared the way Thursday

for U.S. authorities to go after \$330 million in stolen investor funds sitting in frozen foreign bank accounts controlled by convicted Ponzi schemer R. Allen Stanford. The jury, which convicted the former tycoon on

13 of 14 fraud-related counts earlier this week, found there to be sufficient evidence the money in 29 accounts in Switzerland, Britain and Canada was some of the more than \$7 billion he stole from investors over 20 years.

Asia

Japanese town haunted by loss a year after tsunami

MINAMISANRIKU, Japan (AP)—The squat 71-year-old fisherman turns his ruddy, weathered face toward the top of the hillside cemetery. With a heavy heart, he climbs steadily past row after row of tall tombstones, a bucket of water in each hand.

Takayuki Sato is here to clean the family grave. He lost his wife and mother in the tsunami that obliterated most of this once-picturesque fishing town famous for its salmon, seaweed and octopus. The women's bodies were never found.

He also lost his best friend, an aunt and uncle, his house and three boats. Nearly everything from his old life is gone.

"I'm afraid to be alone," Sato says with an embarrassed smile, after reaching the grave site. "I start thinking about a lot of different things when I'm alone. Sometimes I wonder if I can keep living."

One year on, the pain of unthinkable loss runs deep in the town of Minamisanriku. The March 11, 2011, tsunami took away loved ones. It took away jobs and the means to make a living. And it took away the very heart of the physical town, where people lived, worked and shopped.

As Minamisanriku plans to

rebuild, moving its remaining population up into the surrounding hillsides, one thing is clear: It will never return to the cozy seaside town it once was.

The valley beneath the cemetery, where houses and shops were once clustered, is now a wide expanse of flat emptiness dusted with snow. The vacant, cracked remains of a hospital and a few other concrete buildings jut up here and there.

It's a scene repeated to varying degrees along Japan's tsunami-hit northeast coast. The debris has been cleaned up, but hardly any reconstruction has begun, leaving barren landscapes. More than 19,000 people died. Coastal communities are wrestling with how to rebuild when so much has been lost.

Tsunamis are nothing new to this region. Minamisanriku has seen four in the last 120 years, including one in 1960 that destroyed Sato's house—he was 19 at the time—and killed 41 residents.

Sato's family rebuilt near the sea then, but he won't this time. The latest tsunami was so much larger, the devastation so extensive, that it could be a transformative event in the town's roughly 900-year history.

Under current plans, no one



In this photo taken Friday, March 2, 2012, Takayuki Sato, a 71-year-old fisherman, cleans the family grave in Minamisanriku, nearly a year after the March 11 tsunami hit the northeastern Japanese town.

will live in the low-lying land that runs to the sea. Most survivors, Sato included, say they want to move to higher ground, even if it means losing their old neighborhoods and changes their way of life.

Sato is abandoning the home where, some 44 years ago, he was introduced to his 21-year-old bride-to-be. Today, all that is left is

the concrete foundation. A rusted Japan Railways cargo container sits in the neighboring plot.

A decade from now, Minamisanriku "will be totally different," predicts Osamu Takahashi, the owner of an eatery that reopened late last month in a temporary shopping area of 30 stores in prefabricated units next to a muddy parking lot. "The

old atmosphere and history of the town will all be gone. But this is also a chance to recreate our town, too."

The town plans to carve several flat areas into the nearby forested hills for housing, municipal offices and a hospital—a difficult project that will take at least four to five years. The lower part of town, which will be

raised several feet (meters) and protected by a new 29-foot (8.7-meter) seawall, will be reserved for shops, parks and fishing-related business.

Experts warn that scattering the residential areas will isolate people and weaken communal connections, particularly among the elderly, which make up a large chunk of this town and many others along the coast. As Japan's population ages and contracts, rural towns are trying to become more compact, but Minamisanriku is aiming to do the opposite.

"If safety is a top priority, then people will have to split up, but this could undermine the town's sustainability," said Katsuya Hirano, a professor of civil engineering at Tohoku University who is advising the town on its reconstruction plan. "It's a complicated problem."

The town, like many along the coast, is also battling a loss of jobs and people.

The population has shrunk by 2,200 to 15,419, between the 857 who died in the tsunami and those who have moved away to look for work. Many fear it will contract further. The number of people collecting unemployment insurance has shot up 34 percent in the three prefectures (states) worst hit by the disaster.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi warns of voter list problems

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi charged Thursday that official voter lists for next month's by-elections include dead people and open the possibility for fraud.

Suu Kyi called on the international community to watch closely how the elections proceed and how the official election commission deals with complaints of electoral irregularities before determining their policy toward Myanmar.

The United States and other Western nations applied economic and political sanctions against Myanmar because of its former military regime's undemocratic rule and poor human rights record. But they have started considered

easing the sanctions since an elected—though military-backed—government took power last year and began instituting reforms.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy is fielding candidates for all 48 seats at stake in the April 1 by-elections.

Speaking after a meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird at her house in Yangon, Suu Kyi said her party had "just discovered there are many, many irregularities on the voter lists and we have applied to the Elections Commission to do something about this."

"So I would like to watch very closely what's happening to make sure that the elections are free and fair before you de-

cide what the next step should be with regard to the sanctions," she said.

There had been complaints that many people were left off the voter list and names of dead people were on there, she said, calling on the election commission to act quickly on her party's protests.

Baird told the media that Canada would heed Suu Kyi.

"I would be very thrilled to begin to lift the Canadian sanctions against the current government here, but obviously we want to watch closely the next three and a half weeks of the campaign," he said.

During his meeting with Suu Kyi, Baird conferred honorary Canadian citizenship upon the Nobel peace laureate.

Tibetan writer calls for end to self-immolations

BEIJING (AP)—Tibetans including a prominent writer under virtual house arrest in Beijing are pleading for an end to self-immolations in protest of Chinese rule, saying such self-destructive measures do nothing for the cause of Tibetan rights.

Poet Tsering Wooser said in on-line appeal posted Thursday that she is "grief-stricken" by the more than two dozen people who have set themselves on fire over the past year. She called on influential Tibetans, including monks and intellectuals, to help end the deadly form of protest.

China has sought to portray the wave of immolations—including three since Saturday—as the result of outside orchestration rather than what activists say is local anguish over the government's suppression of Tibetan religion and culture.

Many of the protesters have been linked to a Buddhist monastery in the mountainous Aba prefecture of Sichuan province.

In recent weeks, Wooser has posted on her blog photos and information about self-immola-

tions, as well as the tightening of security in Tibetan areas. Her willingness to openly confront authorities makes her stand out

betan Buddhist teacher based in the United States.

"Tibetans must cherish life and live with resilience. Regard-

less of the magnitude of oppression, our life is important, and we have to cherish it," they said.

Their statement said Tibetans can challenge oppression only by staying alive.

"Staying alive allows us to gather the strength as drops of water to form a great ocean," it said. "It depends on thousands and more living Tibetans to pass on our nation's spirit and blood!"

The letter also asks "monks, the elderly, intellectuals, officials, and the masses" to help prevent

more immolations.

China blames supporters of exiled Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama for encouraging the self-immolations.

The Dalai Lama has praised the courage of those who engage in self-immolation and has attributed the protests to what he calls China's "cultural genocide" in Tibet. He also says he does not encourage the protests, noting that they could invite an even harsher crackdown.

Tibetans' fiery protests

Since March 2011, at least 25 Tibetan monks and nuns have set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule. Map locates the sites and the number of self-immolations:



ASIA BRIEFS

Pakistan charges bin Laden's wives

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan has charged Osama bin Laden's three widows with illegally entering and living in the country, the interior minister said Thursday. The three women have been in Pakistani detention since May last year, when U.S. commandos raided the house where they, bin Laden and several of their children were staying. The commandos shot and killed bin Laden, and then buried his body

at sea. Rehman said the three had been charged in court, but he did not say when. It was unclear if they had a lawyer. He said their children were free to leave Pakistan, but could stay with their mothers for the duration of the trial.

Thai police seize 200-plus animals at private zoo

BANGKOK (AP)—More than 200 animals, including kangaroos, flamingos, red pandas and white lions, were seized

from a private zoo Thursday in Thailand's largest recent wildlife bust. Most of the animals were non-native species intended to be sold domestically or smuggled elsewhere. Thailand is a hub of the international black market for protected animals. More than 50 species of animals had been kept without a license in the compound, police Maj. Gen. Norasak Hemnithi said. The owners had imported animals from Africa and elsewhere for almost 10 years, he said.

World

Syrian official defects, calls regime sinking ship

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's deputy oil minister appeared tense as he looked at the camera and announced in a video that he has defected from President Bashar Assad's regime, acknowledging he expects government forces to "burn my home" and "persecute my family."

Abdo Husameddine, a 58-year-old father of four, on Thursday became the highest-ranking civilian official to join the opposition, and he urged his countrymen to "abandon this sinking ship" as the nation spirals toward civil war.

In the YouTube video, Husameddine seemed to address Assad directly, accusing him of vast crimes in the past year as government forces pumel the opposition with tanks and snipers. The U.N. estimates 7,500 people have been killed since the uprising began.

"You have inflicted on those you claim are your people a full year of sorrow and sadness, denied them their basic rights to life and humanity and pushed the country to the edge of the abyss," said Husameddine, wearing a dark suit and tie. He appeared to be reading from a script, casting his eyes down to find the words.

"I do not want to end my life servicing the crimes of this regime," he said. "I declare that I am joining the revolution of the dignified people."

The authenticity of the video could not be verified, and he did not disclose his location. Damascus did not comment on the video. According to a resume posted on the website of Syrian Oil and Gas News, Husameddine is married with four children, fluent in English and French, and studied petroleum engineering at al-Baath University. He was appointed by Assad in 2009.

Assad's regime has suffered a steady stream of low-level army defectors, who have joined a group of dissidents known as the Free Syrian Army, now numbering in the thousands.

Brig. Gen. Mostafa Ahmad al-Sheik, who fled to Turkey in January, was the highest ranking officer to bolt. In late August, Adnan Bakkour, the attorney general of the central city of Hama, appeared in a video announcing he had defected.

Authorities reported he had been kidnapped and said he was being kept against his will by gunmen. He has not been heard from since.

Civilian officials, like Husameddine, have remained largely loyal—making his announcement noteworthy.

Open dissent is dangerous in Syria, a country that crushed any rumblings of defiance even before the popular revolt started to threaten the Assad family's 40-year dynasty. The security forces, which are the backbone of the regime and drive the culture of fear and paranoia, will protect the leadership at all costs.

The cohesion is built into the very structure of the government. Assad, and his father who ruled before him, filled key military posts in the overwhelmingly Sunni country with members of their minority Alawite sect, ensuring loyalty by melding the fate of the army and the regime.

As a result, the army leadership will likely fight to the death, out of fear of being persecuted if the Sunni majority gains the upper hand. But it is not only Alawites whose livelihoods are tied up with the regime; many government officials and prosperous Syrian businessman and officials have long traded political freedoms for economic and other advantages.

In many ways, Husameddine's defection was a reminder of just how airtight the regime has remained, particularly compared to the swift hemorrhaging of Moammar Gadhafi's inner circle.

Within weeks of the Libyan revolt last year, a number of Libyan ambassadors and other high-ranking officials quit the government, and many joined the opposition leadership. The early defection of huge sections of the army in eastern Libya gave the rebel movement a safe zone where they could freely organize their political and military strategies.

Syria has seen nothing similar, with armed groups fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army but lacking co-

ordination beyond their city or even their neighborhood.

Husameddine appealed to other officials to follow his lead.

"I advise my colleagues who have been silent in the face of crimes for a year to abandon this sinking ship, which is about to drown," he said. "The blood of martyrs will not forgive those who continue to conspire with them under the justification that they are employees or carrying out orders."

He also spoke to the Alawites, saying they have no reason to support the regime.

"I advise the Alawite community and say to them, 'the Syrian people is your safety net, and the regime will doubtlessly go, so don't be partners in killing your people,'" he said.

Husameddine identified himself as an engineer and assistant to the oil minister. He said he was member of the ruling Baath Party, but was now quitting, adding he had served 33 years in various government posts. Cabinet ministers in Syria may have several assistants known as deputies.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Washington couldn't authenticate the video. But if Husameddine has defected, she said, it would be in keeping with the Obama administration's call "for senior members of the regime to break with Assad, refuse to stand with this brutal dictator, and instead stand up for the dignity of their people."

World powers stress diplomacy in Iran standoff

VIENNA (AP)—Three days of protracted negotiations held under the specter of war highlighted the diplomatic difficulties ahead for nations intent on ensuring that Iran is not developing nuclear weapons.

In a statement Thursday that was less than dramatic, six world powers avoided any bitter criticism of Iran and said diplomacy—not war—is the best way forward.

The cautious wording that emerged from a weeklong meeting of the U.N. nuclear agency reflected more than a decision to tamp down the rhetoric after a steady drumbeat of warnings from Israel that the time was approaching for possible attacks on Iran to disrupt its nuclear program.

Indeed, the language was substantially milder than the tough approach sought by Washington and allies Britain, France and Germany at the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board meeting. Agreement came only after tough negotiations with Russia and China.

That could spell trouble on any diplomatic path ahead.

Russia, China and the four Western nations have agreed to meet with Iran in another effort to seek a negotiated solution. But with East-West disagreements within the group greater than ever, it could be difficult for the six to act in coordination at those talks.

A previous series of talks between the six and Iran ended in failure, the last one more than a year ago in Istanbul, Turkey. But the issue of six-power unity was never tested during those talks, because Tehran refused even to consider discussing concessions on its nuclear program.

That could change as Russian and Chinese irritation grows with what the two consider unwarranted tough and unilateral

Israelis on Iran

How the Israeli people feel about an attack on Iran:

If the U.S. were involved

Support attack, without U.S. backing

19%

Endorse strike if there is U.S. support

42

Do not strike

34

If Israel stuck without U.S. approval, the U.S. would

Support, at least diplomatically

39

Join the war on Israel's behalf

27

How long do you think the war would last?

Days 18

Months 29

Years 22

© 2012 MCT
Source: Dahaf Institute poll of 500 Israelis Feb. 22-26, 2012; margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points

sanctions recently imposed on Iran by Washington and the European Union. Tehran might try to exploit the rift by offering a compromise that Moscow and Beijing would likely welcome but the West would proclaim meaningless.

Thursday's statement indicated that the West was willing to go some ways to maintain at least a semblance of six-power unity.

It refrained from calling out the Islamic Republic for refusing to cooperate with the IAEA's probe of allegations that it secretly worked on components of a nuclear arms program.

Instead it put the onus both on Iran and the IAEA to "intensify their dialogue" to resolve the four-year standoff. And indirectly countering weeks of Israeli saber-rattling, it emphasized "continued support for a

diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue."

Returning to Jerusalem from intensive talks in Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his government will not allow Iran to obtain atomic bombs but prefers a peaceful solution to the issue. "I hope that Iran chooses to part from its nuclear program peacefully," Netanyahu said, adding, "It is forbidden to let Iran arm itself with nuclear weapons, and I intend not to allow it."

Israel and the U.S. agree that Iran is on a path that could eventually lead to the production of a nuclear weapon, but part ways over urgency: Netanyahu has seemed impatient with President Barack Obama's statements that tough new economic sanctions imposed by the West be given time to work.

Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's chief IAEA delegate, condemned Israel's "continuous threat of attack against Iran's nuclear facilities."

In Tehran, Iran's top leader welcomed comments by Obama advocating diplomacy as a solution in a rare positive signal from the head of a nation that regards Washington as its bitter foe.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, quoted by Iran's state television, praised Obama's statement this week that he saw a "window of opportunity" to use diplomacy to resolve the nuclear dispute.

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters in Iran, told a group of clerics: "This expression is a good word. This is a wise remark indicating taking distance from illusion."

But Khamenei had criticism for Obama as well. The Iranian leader said the economic sanctions pushed by the U.S. and other nations as a way to get Iran to alter its nuclear program would "lead their calculations to failure."



This image made from amateur video and released by Aljizahnews Thursday, March 8, 2012, purports to show a deputy to Syria's oil ministry who identifies himself as Abdo Husameddine at an unidentified location.

WORLD BRIEFS

British, Italian hostages killed in Nigeria

LONDON (AP)—Two Europeans held hostage in Nigeria by kidnappers claiming ties to al-Qaida were killed before rescuers could free them, authorities said Thursday. The men—a Briton and an Italian—were killed by their captors. A Nigerian official said the two died in the crossfire during the rescue attempt, Prime Minister David Cameron said. Chris McManus and Franco Lamolinara were taken captive in May. The pair had been working on a bank construction project in Nigeria, a country that has seen a rise in violence linked to the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram. Britain's Foreign Office confirmed two men were held by terrorists associated with Boko Haram, and a senior British government official said the kidnappers appeared to be from an al-Qaida-linked cell within Boko Haram, but not

within the group's main faction.

Police shootings prompt outrage in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Security personnel armed with M16s and machine guns manned roadblocks and detained dozens of young men Thursday as part of a crackdown in a Jamaican ghetto where a 13-year-old girl, two elderly men and three others were killed during reported shootouts between police and gunmen. Residents of the Denham Town slum in West Kingston blame officers for Monday's killings and the gritty area has been under curfew amid an ongoing security operation to seize illegal guns and fugitives. Human rights groups accused police of trigger-happy tactics across Jamaica that have caused 45 deaths in just the first 10 weeks of the year. A total of 21 people were killed by police in the first six days of March.

Young Style

Hockey breaks ice for Arab and Jewish teens

By DIAA HADID
ASSOCIATED PRESS

METULLA, Israel (AP)—An Arab-Jewish hockey team has become an unlikely icebreaker in this remote corner of northern Israel, overcoming barriers of language, culture and conflict.

A few years ago, a mixed team in these parts was unthinkable. In the arid Middle East, hockey is virtually unheard of, and relations between Arabs and Jews in this combustible area, next to the tense borders of Lebanon and Syria, are generally downright chilly. The Arab players on the Metulla junior ice hockey team, coming from the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, technically aren't even Israeli.

But thanks to an accidental combination of generous philanthropy, a local hockey enthusiast and a sports-mad Arab mayor, the mixed team of teens and preteens is thriving.

"When you play together, you forget that you are Arabs and Jews," said Mayyas Sabag, a 12-year-old forward from the Druse village of Majdal Shams. He is one of five Arab athletes on the 14-member team, which is traveling to Canada this month.

The team is the product of Metulla's Canada Centre, a sprawling sports complex donated to this rural border town in the 1990s by Canadian Jews. The building houses Israel's only Olympic-size hockey rink.

And when the hockey players get skating, the only tension they feel is the thrill of competition.

"When I'm on the ice, I don't feel the ground underneath me," said Maya al-Yousef, a 13-year-old Druse Arab.

With her curly hair crushed into her helmet, al-Yousef was among two dozen youths speeding, skidding and weaving on the ice during a recent practice session. They were a blur of whacking hockey sticks, shouting coaches and flying pucks.

The two Arab girls and three boys on the team said they had never met Jews their age before playing ice hockey. Jews said the same about Arabs. The Arab youths have adopted a halting Hebrew from Jewish teammates.

Language aside, there are clear cultural gaps between the loud and mostly secular Jewish children and more conservative, polite Arab youths.

The coach, parents and sponsors all acknowledge the project is only a small step toward real peace in the region. And while many players said they were not necessarily close friends, they said the meetings have changed the way they view each other.

"In a short period of time we got to know each other," 14-year-old Niv Weinberg said. "We aren't the only ones in living here (in Israel). This country isn't ours alone."

Levav Weinberg, a 30-year-old Metulla apple farmer and hockey enthusiast, began the Canada-Israel Hockey School two years ago with funding from Jewish Canadian philanthropist Sydney Greenberg. He subsidized coaching, equipment, uniforms and rink time with the dream of bringing the popular winter sport to Israel.

To encourage enrollment, Weinberg talked up the project to a friend: Dolan Abu-Saleh, the mayor of Majdal Shams.



In this photo taken, Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, players of the Arab-Jewish ice hockey team of the Canada-Israel Hockey School wait for a coach's instructions during a training session in the village of Metulla on the border between Israel and Lebanon. A rare Arab-Jewish ice hockey team in Israel is breaking all kinds of ice, overcoming barriers of language, culture and conflict to play against a common enemy: other teams.

Majdal Shams village is nestled in the Golan Heights, a mountainous plateau Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Although Israel later annexed the territory, the move was never internationally recognized, and unlike Israel's own Druse community, who serve in the military and are generally well integrated, Golan residents still consider themselves Syrian, or refer to themselves simply as Arabs or Druse.

Such barriers made little difference when 34-year-old Abu-Saleh promised parents a free bus to Metulla, 12 miles away, if their children took up the sport. Within weeks, 100 Arab youths turned up. They even had a translator.

Weinberg faced a new challenge: getting Jewish youths involved. Their parents were reluctant to allow them to play with Arabs, he said.

Weinberg won parents over

with \$5 classes, overcoming concerns with an affordable way to keep children busy. More than 200 Jewish children have since signed up, in addition to about 120 Arabs.

The school keeps new Arab and Jewish students in different classes, seeking to build their confidence on ice before introducing them to each other. But when they are skilled enough to compete, the youths are placed on mixed Arab-Jewish teams.

"Then they understand: 'These are the team members I have—and (getting along) is the only way to win the game,'" Weinberg said.

For a while, Weinberg also managed to bring in a small number of Lebanese children, thanks to another accident of history. The border runs through the nearby Israeli-controlled village of Ghajar, where the residents, while citizens of Lebanon, are allowed to enter Israel.

But the project collapsed when some Ghajar parents withdrew their children. An Israeli army checkpoint at the village's entrance frequently delayed other players, holding up training.

Metulla, which sits right on the border with Lebanon, is no stranger to conflict. In 2006, Israel fought a brutal monthlong war against Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon. The fighting left Israel in control of both sides of Ghajar. While the area has been largely quiet since then, Majdal Shams experienced two deadly incidents last year when Palestinian protesters from Syria tried to crash across the frontier.

Ice hockey in Israel, a country of nearly 8 million people, is modest: There are about 6,000

players in Israel in three different age leagues, coach Ben Chernie said. But thanks to its rink, and a large local population of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Metulla has emerged as Israel's hockey capital.

The Metulla junior ice hockey team has trained together for more than 1 1/2 years now. They are ranked No. 4 in Israel's Peeewe league.

"Next year, if not first place, they'll be second place," Weinberg said. "A year ago they weren't in a level to play in the league."

Their patron, Greenberg, is hoping to improve their rank—and love of the sport—by flying them to Canada for a 10-day ice hockey tour.

They'll watch the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Ottawa Senators play, meet some players, receive coaching and play against other teams, said Shoshana Rabinowitz, Greenberg's assistant.

They'll be hosted by Jewish families in each city. The Druse and Jewish youths were partnered off together to help foster friendships, Weinberg said.

"This is how it starts: in small things," he said.

During training on the rink this week, Sabag and his Israeli teammate, 14-year-old Lidor Bez, buzzed around Weinberg on the ice, demanding to be partners during the Canada trip. They want to sit beside each other on the plane and stay with the same families, they said.

"He's a friend of mine—a good friend," Bez said. "When we play together. We aren't going to let each other fail. Even if he is from Syria, and I am from Israel."

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—More work needs to be done to keep young Americans from using tobacco, including creating smoking bans and increasing taxes on tobacco products, the U.S. Surgeon General's office said in a report released Thursday.

Almost one in five high school-aged teens smokes, down from earlier decades, but the rate of decline has slowed, the report said.

It says it's particularly important to stop young people from using tobacco because those who start smoking as teenagers can increase their chances of long-term addiction. They also quickly can experience reduced lung function, impaired lung growth, early heart disease and other health problems like asthma.

More than 80 percent of smokers begin by age 18 and 99 percent of adult smokers in the U.S. start by age 26, according to the 920-page report, which is the first comprehensive look at youth tobacco use from the surgeon general's office in nearly two decades.

US: More work needed to stop youth tobacco use

"In order to end this epidemic, we need to focus on where we can prevent it and where we can see the most effect, and that's with young people," Surgeon General Regina Benjamin said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We want to make our next generation tobacco-free, and I think we can."

The report details youth tobacco use, health impacts, and tobacco marketing and prevention efforts in the U.S. Officials hope the information will reinvigorate anti-tobacco efforts and spark public activism in reducing death and disease caused by tobacco use.

The report also recommended anti-smoking campaigns and increased restrictions under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's authority to regulate tobacco as other ways to prevent adolescents and young adults from using tobacco products.

Benjamin did not point fingers on why youth tobacco use

continues in the U.S. Instead, she wants to see how the nation as a whole can best address the issue, she said.

"I don't want to focus on blame, I want to focus on prevention," she said. "I want to make sure we're doing everything that we can to prevent kids from ever starting to smoke or use tobacco products."

The surgeon general's office last issued a report on youth tobacco use in 1994, the first wide-ranging report on the topic by federal health officials. The new report is the 31st issued by U.S. surgeons general to warn the public about tobacco's risks. The first report in 1964 declared tobacco to be deadly.

Since the 1994 report, smoking among high school students has declined from 27.5 percent to 19.5 percent, or about 3 million students, but the rate of decline

has slowed in recent years. About 5.2 percent, or 600,000 middle school students also are current smokers. According to the report, every day in the U.S., more than 3,800 people under the age of 18 smoke their first cigarette and more than 1,000 of them become daily smokers. They replace the 1,200 people who die each day in the U.S. from smoking.

ON THE NET

■ <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov>

many of our children are addicted, too many cannot quit, and too many go on to die far too young," Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh said at a Thursday news conference.

The report also examined advertising and promotional activities by tobacco companies, which have been shown to "cause the onset and continuation of smoking among adolescents and young adults."

Tobacco companies have spent increasing amounts of money on marketing efforts to reduce prices,

which health officials said in the report could influence access to price-sensitive youth and make cigarettes more affordable.

"Far too many kids still see smoking images and messages every day that normalize this dependence," Koh said. "Kids see smoking in the movies they watch, the video games they play, the websites they visit and in the communities where they live."

Nearly \$10 billion was spent in 2008 on cigarette marketing by the nation's biggest tobacco companies, a 48 percent increase from what was spent in 1998, when some of the companies agreed with state attorneys general to curtail or stop some of their marketing efforts. That 25-year, \$206 billion settlement also pays states for smoking-related health care costs and to support tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

"We have come a long way since the days of smoking on airplanes and in college class-

rooms, but we have a long way to go," Secretary of Health and Human Resources Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement accompanying the latest report. "The prosperity and health of our nation depend on it."

In a statement Thursday, Richmond, Va.-based Altria Group Inc., parent company of the nation's largest cigarette maker, Philip Morris USA, which makes the top-selling Marlboro brand, said it agrees that kids shouldn't use tobacco products and that it markets its products to adult tobacco users through age-verified direct communications and at retail stores.

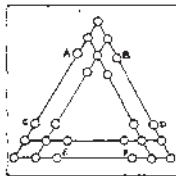
"Underage tobacco use is a difficult issue, and there is not a simple solution," the company said. "We agree there's still more work to be done."

In concert with the report, the surgeon general's office is launching a contest for young people to submit videos on the report's findings that will ultimately be chosen by the public to win cash prizes.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SIDE LINER! Study the configuration at right carefully, and you will discover that only the outer equilateral triangle has exactly six circles per side, and only the center equilateral triangle has exactly four circles per side. Now, add three straight lines, A-F, B-E, C-D, draw circles at intersections, and you will devise an additional equilateral triangle having exactly two circles per side.



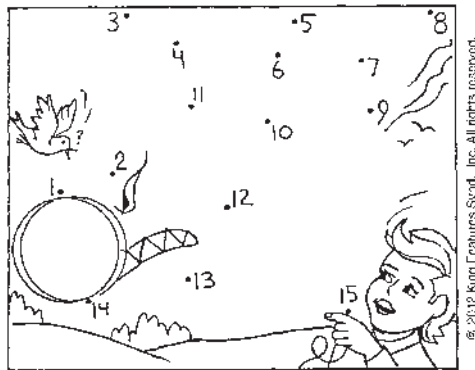
BODY LANGUAGE! "I have something in my eye," said the needle. "My ribs are broken," said the umbrella. "Take my hand," said the clock. "My teeth are shot," said the gear. Can you think of any to add?

LINE OF MARCH BLOWOUT

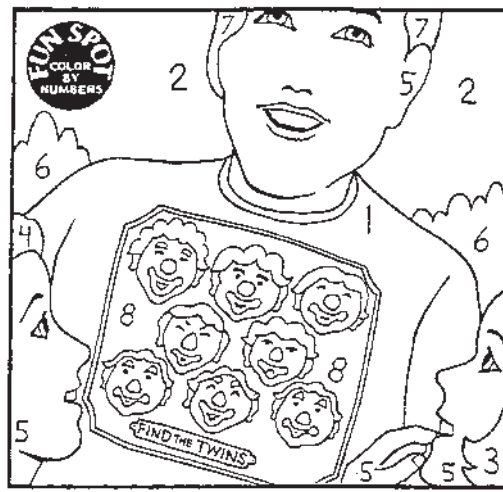
TAKE note of letters being expelled from the instrument above. They are to be used in blanks of the diagram to form words in accord with the following definitions (top down, respectively):

An elbow, for one.
Rose bush hazard.
Medicine container.
Spring garden bloom.
One of the poles.
A literary work.

Alakazam, read in the order in which they are to appear, these letters will spell the name of an American composer who is familiar to every marching band. Who's that?



WHAT'S UP! Something is caught up in strong March winds above. What can it be? Draw lines dot to dot to find out.



DOUBLE DIP! Task No. 1: Find twins. Task No. 2: Add the following colors by number: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Green, 7—Ok. brown, 8—Purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

VISCERAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible two-somes: EVIL, SCAR.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It's still not known who made this sage observation: "Wisdom is divided into two parts: a) having a great deal to say, and b) not saying it."

■ In 1931, the Newspaper Enterprise Association predicted that crime would be nearly gone in 20 years.

■ Do you subscribe to the adage "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"? Consider this: Would that teen heartthrob of an earlier day, Bobby Darin, have become so popular if he had been known by his given name, Walden Cassotto?

■ At one time, Canada's CBC network banned the children's cartoon "Rocky and Bullwinkle" because of its sometimes unflattering portrayal of the Mounties.

■ The Goodrich company, known primarily for its tires, also invented the first modern golf ball.

■ Sometimes scientists get to express their creativity when they have the opportunity to name things. Take deep-sea sites, for example: in the North Atlantic is the Porcupine Abyssal Plain, Clam Acres is off the west coast of Mexico, and there's a site near the Galapagos Islands called Hole-to-Hell.

■ Those who study such things have found that a sneeze leaves your mouth at more than 100 m.p.h.

■ Donald Duck's middle name is "Fauntleroy."

■ The game of chess originated in India in about 2,000 B.C.—it was called "chaturanga." And it didn't look quite like the modern version that is played all over the world today. Chaturanga had only four kinds of pieces: elephants, chariots, horses and foot soldiers.

■ A Rochester, Mich., law states that anyone who is bathing in public must be wearing a bathing suit that has been inspected by a police officer.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "You may do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm."—Colette

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE • YARD

E U Q N J F C P Y V R O L H E
B X U R O L I M E B Y V S Q N
K H E B Y W T A R O L J G E B
Y W U R P N K R I G D B Z X V
S Q O M K I Y K E G E S C B A
Y W U S S Q P E N T L T I J H
F E C A S Y L R K X S R V G U
S Q P E L A S K C N D A N M N
K J N I F F R E I C O D M B Z
Y I A O X O V G T U O D T R R
L Q M P W O M L S K G I H G A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arm	Goods	Marker	Sale
Bird	Grass	Master	Stick
Darts	Lines	Of ale	Work
Donkey	Man	Ramp	

© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★ ★

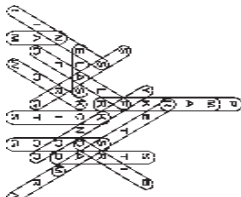
★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult
★ ★ ★ GO FIGURE!

	×		—		16
÷		×		÷	
	×		+		14
+		+		+	
	—		×		18
10	17	10			

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 9

© 2012 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



YARD

GO FIGURE ANSWER

01	21	01			
81	6	×	5	—	2
	+		+		+
14	8	+	3	×	2
	÷		×		÷
91	8	—	4	×	9

Sick cat can't stop pooping

DEARPAW'S CORNER: My 8-year-old longhaired cat, "Buster," has gas and diarrhea. He was given Flagyl for two months with no improvement. Then he took three months of probiotics, and no improvement. Now he gets 5 mg of prednisone and 5 drops of Rescue Remedy daily. His butt has been shaved to help keep him clean, and I wash it once a day. Buster eats special cat food, but that doesn't help his digestion either. We have quarter-sized circles of poop all over the house, and I am breaking my back cleaning the carpet and floor. My husband says to euthanize him. What more can I do?—Pat R., via email



sites or a metabolic condition. If a conclusive cause isn't found, you must try and find ways to mitigate his symptoms.

The change in diet also is recommended in case a food allergy is the problem. You're feeding Buster a specialty cat food, but if it isn't working, try other brands or even try making home-cooked cat food.

Additional information can be found online. And realize you're not alone: Many owners are caring for cats with IBD. Please don't give up on Buster.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

(c) 2012 King Features Synd., Inc.

Homemade gelatin citrus snacks

It's citrus time! Prepare for your family's next snack attack with 100 percent pure fruit juice magically transformed into whimsical and eye-catching citrus bowls and slices using unflavored gelatin and scooped out orange, lemon, lime or grapefruit halves.

Later, when you hear a mid-afternoon "I'm hungry" groan, say, "It sounds to me like it's time to eat some art."

Here's how to make the healthy sunshine snack:

Homemade Gelatin in Citrus Bowls

Citrus Bowls

First, prepare the scooped-out citrus halves. Choose two or more of the following depending on size: oranges, lemons, limes or grapefruit.

Cut fruit in half evenly lengthwise

or around the circumference. Insert a paring knife just between the white pith and the fruit in each half, and remove the fruit pulp to form bowls. (Use removed fruit for salads or snacking as desired.)

For stability, set empty citrus bowls perfectly upright into small bowls or sections of a muffin tin. If citrus bowls are wobbly, carefully trim a bit off of the base, being careful not to pierce all the way through. Set them aside while you prepare the gelatin.

Homemade Fruit Juice Gelatin

2 cups pure, 100 percent fruit juice
1-2 tablespoons honey
2 (1/4-ounce size) envelopes unflavored gelatin such as Knox brand

1. In a medium-size saucepan, heat 1 1/2 cups of juice. Bring to a boil



by Donna Erickson

and remove from heat.

2. While juice is heating up, stir remaining 1/2 cup of juice into two envelopes of unflavored gelatin in a medium bowl (preferably with a spout) with a spout and let stand for 1 minute. Add the hot fruit juice and stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Stir in honey.

3. Cool slightly, and pour into the pre-prepared citrus bowls. Refrigerate until firm.

4. When set, serve with a spoon and eat the gelatin right out of the citrus bowl. Or, slice into wedges with a sharp knife. Makes 4-6 servings.

Alternate idea: Use 1 (3-ounce) box of gelatin such as Jell-O brand, as an alternative to homemade gelatin. Use the Jigglers recipe on the side of the box for firmer gelatin.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2012 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

Why dishwashers are turning out dirty dishes

By **ALAN HEAVENS**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

One of my favorite lines from television was delivered by Jonathan Harris, who played the diabolical yet cowardly Dr. Smith on "Lost in Space."

He and Will Robinson were out searching for iron pyrite, and as Will scanned the horizon with binoculars, he reported that his mother and older sister were doing laundry.

"Spare me the dreary domestic story," Smith told him.

Well, what Dr. Smith would consider dreary, we here at "Your Place" consider our meat and potatoes.

So, when we write about dishwashers that produce glassware with a filmy coating, a tidal wave of e-mail leaves us floating in possible solutions.

The issue seems to be that the formula for dishwashing detergent was changed in order to have a lesser impact on the

environment. It may be gentler on the planet, but it appears not to be doing its job on glassware.

This situation has its parallels in low-flow toilets, paints without volatile organic compounds, and lead-free solder. Trying to be first on the market, manufacturers jumped the gun in releasing products before the bugs were worked out, leaving consumers wary and looking for black markets in the older models.

As time went on, all three improved markedly. And so will dishwashing detergent.

A lot of my readers offered their recommendations for getting rid of these spots, so here goes:

Alice Choper from Exton, Pa., was about ready to toss the cloudy glasses but tried handwashing them with Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, and was successful. Her engineer-husband suggested changing dishwasher detergent.

Alan M. Rothman offers a scientific approach: The retired chemist was ready to call a repairman when he read an article in *Chemical & Engineering News* about the problem. "Apparently, as a result of federally mandated removal of phosphates in dishwasher detergents, some manufacturers were having problems coming up with satisfactory formulations," he said. The article rated two brands as the most successful: Cascade pouches and Finish 4 in 1 tablets. Both worked. In Florida, Publix brand detergent also worked.

Her e-mail "handle" is Avalon: "Nothing works better than pouring a gallon or more of white vinegar directly into the machine before running the cycle. Works beautifully."

Joan in Pa.: Hard water is a problem in her town, but what bugs her, and understandably so, is having to spend money on repair people who absolve the dishwasher of criminal mischief while detergent-makers dump subpar products on the market.

First repair person: Cover heating element in vinegar. Done twice, no change.

Second repair person: Use Jet Dry (already using it). Try Glass Magic and clean the dishwasher monthly with Glisten. Both provided excellent results.

Recommended detergents: Finish Quantum and Cascade complete.

No name but that's OK: After much searching on the Internet,

she found an "amazing product" called Lemi Shine. It's sold at Target and Wal-Mart. After following directions, including running Lemi Shine thru an empty dishwasher first, "the glassware shines like new!"

"Not best housekeeper, but I do OK": First, she runs the loaded dishwasher's quick-

rinse cycle using one heaping tablespoon of baking soda in the bottom of the dishwasher, right after she puts in a load, to prevent soils from hardening on the dishes.

She runs the full dishwasher on either the light wash or normal wash cycle. If you normally have hard-water mineral film,

use whatever final rinse method you normally use—a cup of white vinegar on a short wash cycle, for example.

"This seems like a lot of fiddling, but it has multiple advantages—you use less detergent, your partially filled dishwasher doesn't develop funky smells between cycles, and both the dishes and your dishwasher interior get clean." Detergent use is down by about half, and it appears that "I'm using less water also."

Also on the list: Finish Powerball.

So, do forks and knives go top or bottom up in the dishwasher? Don't spare me that domestic story.

Questions? E-mail Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies. He is the author of *Remodeling on the Money*—Kaplan Publishing.



When we write about dishwashers that produce glassware with a filmy coating, a tidal wave of e-mail leaves us floating in possible solutions.

Fruit fly swarm infests kitchen

By **SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



Q: How can I get rid of pesky fruit flies? They're all over my kitchen.—Stephen F., Warwick, R.I.

A: Fruit flies, as their name indicates, love hanging out around fruit, or any sort of sweetish, sugary item. They're much more common in the summer months, but it's not unusual to see them in early spring, particularly in the kitchen, if the conditions are right. A warm environment combined with a bowl of overripe bananas often is all it takes for a few fruit flies to set up housekeeping, and in a few days, it will seem like they're everywhere.

The fastest way to get rid of fruit flies is to hunt down and get rid of items in which they live and breed: namely, overripe, fermented or spoiled fruits, vegetables or other food. They also can thrive in drains, empty containers, mops, piles of damp rags or clothing—anywhere that liquid or food has been allowed to sit and get stagnant. They can even get into your refrigerator.

Throw out old food and clean the kitchen or other infested areas. Look behind appliances, including the stove and refrigerator, for dropped food or spilled juices. Check and clean all cabinets, especially those in which food is stored (canned or fresh), in case any food has fallen out of sight and spoiled.

Treat drains, including unused or infrequently used drains, by pouring a cup of white vinegar down each and letting it sit for several minutes before rinsing with hot water.

If a thorough cleaning doesn't end the problem, talk with a pest control professional about locating other sources of the infestation and treating with a pesticide.

To prevent future infestations or minimize the impact of one (since fruit flies can be brought into the house with fruit and veggies from the store), clean the kitchen and other areas where food is eaten or stored once a week, and reduce the amount of clutter in those areas so the bugs have fewer places to settle in. Treat drains with vinegar once a month, or more frequently if needed. Store garbage in tightly sealed containers and away from entry points like windows or doors. Make sure window screens don't have holes or small tears that would allow pests through.

HOME TIP: Make a simple fruit fly trap by pouring an ounce or two of apple cider or putting a slice of banana into a glass jar, then rolling a piece of paper into a funnel shape and sticking the narrow end of the funnel into the jar. Fruit

flies will be attracted down the funnel to the cider, but can't get out.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Chicken and fruit

- 1 package (6 1/4 ounce) white-and-wild-rice mix
- 1/2 cup parboiled rice
- 2 medium oranges
- 2 medium Red Delicious or McIntosh apples
- 1 bunch (about 1 pound) fresh spinach
- 1 (3/4 pound) smoked boneless chicken breast
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

1. In 3-quart saucepan over high heat, heat 3 1/2 cups water to boiling. Stir in white-and-wild-rice mix with seasoning packet and parboiled rice; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 minutes or until water is absorbed and rice is tender. Set aside to cool slightly.

2. While rice is cooking, cut peel from oranges. Holding oranges over large bowl to catch juice, cut sections from oranges; drop sections into bowl. Dice apples. Coarsely chop half of spinach leaves; reserve remaining leaves. Discard skin from chicken breast; tear breast into bite-size pieces.

3. To bowl with oranges, add rice mixture, apples, chopped spinach, chicken, vinegar and oil; mix well. Arrange reserved spinach leaves on platter; top with rice mixture. Serves 6.

¥ Each serving: About 350 calories, 7g total fat, 39mg cholesterol, 995mg sodium. For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipe-finder/.

Cluttered home? Here's how to fix it!

By **JON LANSNER**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Jennifer Ford Berry is an organizational expert and author of the *Organize Now* series of self-help books. We figured we'd help our many readers who pledged to get organized in 2012 and ask Jennifer for some home de-cluttering advice!

Us: Organizing the house seems so overwhelming. What are a few hints that can get a person going in the right direction?

Jennifer: Start with the area of your home that causes you the most stress and get it organized. Take it one step at a time until it is 100 percent completed. You will feel a sense of accomplishment and an increase in energy which will help motivate to tackle area No. 2.

Us: Some people have kitchens that look right out of the home-design magazines. Others can't find a thing. Who is normal? What should a clutter fighter attack first in this room?

Jennifer: More people than not are overwhelmed by clutter

in their life. Start with the countertops. This is the most visible space in your kitchen and the most important because it is the area you need to work on. Put away all appliances that you use less than 1 time per week. Clear the paper and make a home for it. Don't go crazy on the decor, one maybe two things is plenty on a kitchen countertop.

Us: Many home offices are more a collection of piles. Whatever became of the paper-free society? How can one best decide what records to keep, which ones to toss—and what does one need to buy or do to keep my paper reasonably orderly?

Jennifer: Paper-free society...ha! That is a long ways away. Paper is everyone's worst nightmare because it keeps coming, uninvited, each and every day. For example, if I want more clothes to come into my home I have to physically go out and buy them. But paper just keeps on coming no matter what we do. Rule of thumb—80 percent of the paper we keep we NEVER look at again. So ask

yourself "is there at least an 80 percent chance I will need this again?" If you can get a digital copy somewhere—toss it! Good, old-fashion filing system is the best way to keep track of paper. Clearly labeled in a straight tab format for hard copies; and labeled folders on your computer.

Us: Why do most three-car garages hold maybe one car—and family's worth of junk? Bet there's some mental approach that needs to be changed about this open space. How do we get the cars back in the garage and the storage space better used?

Jennifer: Many times people throw the items they are not sure what to do with, or don't have a home for, in the garage. This is much easier than (1) making the decision on whether or not to part with the item and (2) deciding on a home for the item. Get tougher on decision-making and you may have less in your garage. Also look up in the garage, that is where you can find the storage space you need to enable you to clear the floor for the vehicles.

Life & Style

Russian grannies win bid to sing at Eurovision

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian group known as the Buranovo Grannies has swept aside glamorous opposition to represent the country at this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

The eight women beat 24 competitors, including a double act comprising 2008 Eurovision winner Dima Bilan, in a televised show late Wednesday.

An outfit from a village in Russia's Udmurtia Republic, the women blend modern pop sounds with their own traditional choral singing style.

The refrain of the Buranovo Grannies "Party for Everybody" is in English, but the remainder of the song is in Udmurt, a distant relation of Finnish spoken by some 325,000 people.

The 57th Eurovision Song Contest will be held in May in Baku, Azerbaijan.

While some countries compete for the Eurovision title in earnest, the contest has for many become an object of mockery.

But the Buranovo Grannies, who performed in customary peasant garb, say they want to be taken seriously.

One group member, who

identified herself in an interview to Russian television station Rossiya-1 as granny Olya, said their goal in performing is to raise money to build a church in their village of Buranovo, which is home to around 650 people.

"Grandmothers don't need glory and wealth. We have family, we have a home, we have enough to live," grandmother Olya said.

At an average age of 75, the Buranovo Grannies will be competing with U.K. entry Engelbert Humperdinck for the gray vote.

Humperdinck, a sideburned, square-jawed, 75-year-old crooner who famously beat the Beatles to the No. 1 spot in the U.K. charts in 1967, was selected by the BBC as Britain's entry in the Eurovision.

Humperdinck—whose former name is Arnold Dorsley—was a 1960s sex symbol



In this picture made available Thursday, March 8, 2012. A Russian group known as the Buranovskiy Babushki, or Buranovo Grannies, perform during a song contest in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, March 7, 2012 to win the right to represent the country at this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

whose "Release Me" topped the British charts in 1967, keeping The Beatles' "Penny Lane" and "Strawberry Fields Forever" at No. 2. He also had a top 10 U.S. hit in 1976 with "After the Lovin'."

Previous winners of the contest include '60s chan-

teuse Lulu, Sweden's ABBA—victors in 1974 with "Waterloo"—and Canada's Celine Dion, who triumphed for Switzerland in 1988.

On Wednesday, Armenia informed the European Broadcasting Union that it would pull out of the contest over se-

curity concerns.

Armenia and Azerbaijan, which won the right to host the Eurovision by winning the competition last year, have been bitter enemies since the two former Soviet nations went to war in the 1990s over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

'Housewives' creator denies anger at Sheridan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anger didn't factor into the decision to kill off Nicollette Sheridan's role on "Desperate Housewives," despite her complaints that her boss hit her on the set, the show's creator testified Thursday.

Marc Cherry concluded his testimony in the actress' wrongful termination case by denying claims from Sheridan's attorneys that he tried to influence the statements of other employees on the show to fit his version of the dispute. A longtime executive producer on the show corroborated with Cherry's version, saying he learned that Sheridan's role would be eliminated



Sheridan

to kill off Sheridan's character Edie Britt was given in May 2008, four months before the actress accused Cherry of striking her hard in the head during a discussion of a scene. George Perkins, an executive producer who wasn't present for the May meeting, said he learned about

months before the September 2008 dispute.

Cherry and other witnesses have said approval

plans for Britt's death the following month and had the impression it was a final decision.

Perkins also informed human resources about the dustup between Cherry and Sheridan.

Cherry testified that he was simply trying to convey some direction to the actress on how to use physical humor.

Sheridan, 48, told jurors last week she was stunned and humiliated by the blow, which she described as a wallop. She testified Cherry informed her that her character would be killed off in February 2009 and told her that he had just made the decision.

Actor James Denton, who rehearsed and shot with Sheridan the day of her dispute with Cherry, told jurors he didn't learn of Britt's death until he received a script detailing it the following year.

"I can't say I was shocked, only because people get killed so often," he testified.

Jurors have seen plenty of evidence about the many deaths of "Desperate Housewives." They were frequently told 48 characters have been killed on the series, and were shown a montage of the various methods, including beatings, shootings, car crashes,

stabblings and, in Britt's case, electrocution.

The actor also told the jury he had great affection for both Sheridan and Cherry, who have been locked in a heated court battle since she sued over her firing in April 2010.

"I don't really think I helped or hurt anybody," Denton said outside the courtroom. He had been called by Cherry's lawyers and spent only a few minutes on the stand, but described the experience as "brutal."

He will be the only other series star to testify during the trial. Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White ruled that defense attorneys cannot call Eva Longoria as a witness.

Musician Chely Wright to open LGBT center in Mo.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—When country musician Chely Wright was growing up in Kansas, she had no place she felt she could go for support as she struggled with her sexuality.

Now Wright is opening such a place in Kansas City. The 41-year-old whose hits include "Single White Female" and "Shut Up and Drive" will be there this weekend for the opening of a community center where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families and friends can meet up. The location was chosen, in part, because Wright grew up 40 miles away, in Wellsville, Kan.

"This just gives so much hope to these outlying areas, that you

"If you try to find your life's mate in a dark, small closet, you tend to find a lot of unhealthy people. And that was the experience I was having in the closet. It wasn't until I came out that I was able to find a healthy, happy relationship."



Wright

major metropolitan area has a gay and lesbian center," said Wright, who married LGBT activist Lauren Blitzer last summer. "That would have meant everything to me had I been a kid growing up in Wellsville, knowing that there is a beautiful facility in our major city, that that was OK."

The new center, which will be called the LIKEME Lighthouse, is

the most ambitious project undertaken by Wright's LIKEME Organization, whose name is a play on the title of her memoir, "Like Me: Confessions of a Heartland Country Singer." That book and her seventh album, "Lifted Off the Ground," were released when she came out in May 2010.

"The essence was I looked and looked for people like me,"

Wright said. "When I moved to Nashville, I scoured my industry for people like me. If there were people were like me, they were certainly hiding it."

Wright said some haven't accepted her sexuality but that coming out was worth it, noting she met her spouse soon afterward.

"If you try to find your life's mate in a dark, small closet, you

tend to find a lot of unhealthy people," Wright said. "And that was the experience I was having in the closet. It wasn't until I came out that I was able to find a healthy, happy relationship."

A series of events are planned around the center's grand opening, including a benefit screening Friday of a documentary called "Wish Me Away" about Wright's coming out experience and an open house and benefit concert Saturday at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Others slated to perform or attend the concert are lesbian Christian musician Jennifer Knapp, gay MSNBC anchor Thomas Roberts, and Tracy Ryerson and Stacie Karakasidis, a couple who appeared on the first season of Showtime's lesbian-focused reality show "The Real L Word."

Pearlman, Gaddis win book critics prizes

NEW YORK (AP)—Short story writer Edith Pearlman has won the National Book Critics Circle award for fiction.

Pearlman was cited Thursday for "Binocular Vision: New and Selected Stories," continuing the run of belated appreciation for an author loved by critics but little known to the general public. Published by Lookout Books, Pearlman's collection was a finalist last fall for the National Book Awards and won the PEN/Malamud prize for outstanding short fiction.

Many of her stories tell of Jewish life after World War II.

"Some refugees from Europe came through my hometown during the war, and I have met others throughout my life, all trying with more or less success to make a home in the New World," Pearlman, who grew up in Providence, R.I., explained during an interview in November. "These people were traumatized by what had happened to their homeland and their co-religionists; yet they managed to be light when they could, and they banished self-pity from their outer life."

Historian John Lewis Gaddis won the biography prize for his epic "George F. Kennan," a fitting match of a top Cold War scholar telling the story of one of the Cold War's founding strategists. Maya Jasanoff's "Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary War" was the nonfiction winner, and the poetry award went to Laura Kasischke's "Space, in Chains."

The autobiography prize was given to Mira Bartok for "The Memory Palace: A Memoir," and Geoff Dyer's "Otherwise Known as the Human Condition: Selected Essays and Reviews" won for criticism.

There were no cash awards.

The NBCC also presented two honorary prizes. Robert Silvers, who nearly 50 years ago helped found The New York Review of Books, won the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award. Kathryn Schulz, the book critic for New York magazine, received the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing.

Jeremy Rosado ejected by 'Idol' judges, leaving 12

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeremy Rosado has gotten the hook on "American Idol."

Thursday's edition of the Fox singing contest saw the exit of the 19-year-old receptionist from Valrico, Fla. He left behind a dozen finalists still in the running.

They include Elise Testone, a 28-year-old teacher from

Charleston, S.C., whom the judges spared in favor of Rosado. The two were revealed as the female and male singers rated lowest by viewers after Wednesday's show, and in a novel twist the judges were charged with deciding, on the spot, who would stay and who would go.

Asked if America got it

right putting those two at the bottom, judge Randy Jackson replied, "I don't know if they got it exactly right, but probably, I'm thinking."

Among the other four who got the lowest viewer scores but, for now, remain safe: 25-year-old gentle giant Jermaine Jones, of Pine Hill, N.J.; soaring 16-year-old vocalist Shannon Magrane,

of Tampa, Fla.; 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt, of South Kingstown, R.I.; and booming 19-year-old student Joshua Ledet, of Westlake, La.

On Wednesday's show, all the guys had performed Stevie Wonder songs, while the female contestants paid tribute to Whitney Houston, who died last month.

Whitney Houston's death was feared, relative says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whitney Houston's sister-in-law said she feared that drugs would end the singer's life.

In a partial transcript of an interview with Oprah Winfrey scheduled to air Sunday, Patricia Houston said she would be "kidding herself" to say otherwise.

Patricia Houston, who was her sister-in-law's manager, was asked if she thought drugs would end up "taking" Whitney Houston. The "handwriting was kind of on the wall," she replied.

The pop star was changing how she lived, Patricia Houston said, and "it wasn't about substance abuse or anything like that relative to the...latter days or anything like that."

"It was just more of a lifestyle. I was afraid for other things," Patricia Houston said. "I saw her chasing a dream, you know, looking for love in all the wrong places."

Bobbi Kristina, Whitney Houston's daughter with singer Bobby Brown, also was interviewed for the episode of "Oprah's Next Chapter" airing 9 p.m. EST Sunday on Winfrey's OWN channel. The 19-year-old discusses how she wants her mother to be remembered, OWN said Thursday.

Houston, 48, was found underwater in a Beverly Hills hotel room bathtub on the eve of the Grammy Awards. Investigators found several bottles of prescription medication in the room, and tests were being conducted to determine the cause of her Feb. 11 death.



AP
In this undated image from video released by Harpo, Inc., host Oprah Winfrey, left, is shown with Bobbi Kristina, daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston during an interview in Atlanta, Ga. The exclusive interview will be shown on "Oprah's Next Chapter," on the OWN network, Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 9:00 p.m. EST.

Houston's lawyer calls her will 'straightforward'

ATLANTA (AP)—A lawyer for Whitney Houston said Thursday that her will is a "straightforward" case and expects no complications with the administration of her estate.

Kenny Meisalas said in a phone interview that "things with the family have been very smooth, no problems." He said things are proceeding normally, and he doesn't expect any challenges to the will.

Fulton County Probate Court Judge Pinkie T. Toomer in Atlanta on Wednesday approved the will. It revealed the late superstar left all her as-

sets to her only child, 19-year-old Bobbi Kristina. Her sister-in-law and manager, Pat Houston, was named as the administrator of the estate.

Meisalas declined to talk about Houston's assets or possible debts.

Since her death, Houston's albums have been top sellers. This week, she has four albums in the top 20 positions on the Billboard Top 200 albums chart, including her "Greatest Hits," which sits at No. 2 and sold 112,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Monkees star Davy Jones mourned in private funeral

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Monkees singer Davy Jones was remembered in a small private Florida funeral as a laid-back daydreamer who brought fans into a world blissfully free of worries.

The service was held behind locked doors Wednesday at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Indian-town, close to Jones' home and next to Hope Rural School, which

Jones had supported.

The Rev. Frank O'Loughlin, who presided over the service, said several of Jones' own songs were played, including "I'll Love You Forever" and "Written in My Heart." In his own remarks to mourners, the priest compared the singer to the diminutive hero of "Lord of the Rings," saying the author J.R.R. Tolkien por-

trayed a world not unlike the one Jones offered fans.

"He wrote about a quiet, gentle, contented people," O'Loughlin said in his sermon, a copy of which he shared with The Associated Press. "A people for whom life was bright, neighbors friends, daydream believers with an absolute absence of burden who took themselves lightly—lighter

than air. Wasn't that what David conveyed to the world, a blissful lightness of being?"

O'Loughlin said Jones' widow, Jessica Pacheco, brought her husband's remains to the church and her brother Joseph Pacheco, the singer's manager, gave a eulogy. Besides family, the man who first trained Jones to ride racehorses was in attendance, as were members of his current band, who wrote prayers they read at the service.

Granddaughter gets an earful about dangers of her earbuds

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 12-year-old girl who loves music and electronics. I sit on the swing and listen to music on my iPod through my earbuds. I do it at least a half-hour every day—sometimes more.

When my grandma visited a few weeks ago, she tried to talk to me when I was giving my iPod my undivided attention. When I finally realized she was talking to me, I took my earbuds out so I could hear her. She told me the earbuds were going to make me deaf. (I listen on four or five notches.)

One night we were playing a card game where you have to play really fast and watch a gazillion piles of cards at once. The game made me dizzy, and I said so at the end of the round. Grandma said it was because of my iPod. It was all I could do to say politely, "No, it's not."

Is there a way to tell her to stop blaming my iPod for everything? I consider my iPod a friend.

MUSIC LOVER IN ARIZONA

DEAR MUSIC LOVER: Loud noises can damage a person's hearing, and there is legitimate concern that the sound levels at which people listen to music cause hearing problems.

However, I suspect your grandmother is less concerned with the damage your iPod will do "on four or five notches" than she is about the fact that you don't give her your full attention when you're spending time together. I'm surprised your parents haven't mentioned to you that showing good manners means being polite, respectful and not ignoring your grandmother when she's trying to talk to you or play a game with you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband died unexpectedly eight months ago, leaving me with two young children to raise on my own. My parents are deceased. It has been a long, hard road since then. I have tried to make sure my in-laws continue having contact with my children, encouraging visits to my home and dropping the kids off at their homes when they have asked.

I recently let everyone know that, although I still miss my husband terribly, I have been lonely and I'm ready to start dating again. I was frankly unprepared for the barrage of absolute HATE that was sent my way by my husband's parents and siblings. They have cut off all contact with me and thus my children, which has left me stunned and sent my kids reeling from even more loss in their lives.

Is there something wrong or disrespectful with my wanting companionship and to be happy again? My in-laws seem to expect me to be in mourning forever, which is cruel and incredibly inconsiderate. Please help me find peace with all of this because it's tearing me up inside.

IN TURMOIL IN DETROIT

DEAR IN TURMOIL: Your former in-laws may have been less upset had you waited a full year before letting "everyone" know that you're ready to start dating and going on with your life. Not knowing them, I can't be sure what has caused them to shun you and their grandchildren, who are their last link to their lost son and brother.

You may find peace through acceptance of the fact that as one chapter in life has closed, another is opening up and you will have a full life ahead of you. That is not wrong. As much as you may have loved your husband, now that he is gone you have every right to continue living a full and happy life with companionship and love. My deepest sympathy to you for the loss of your husband.

DEAR READERS: If you live in a state where daylight saving time is observed, don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed tonight. Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. tomorrow. Hallelujah—it'll be lighter later!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bette Midler to be honored by Songwriters Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Bette Midler's voice has helped make songs like "Wind Beneath My Wings" classics, and now she'll be honored for that gift. Midler is set to receive the Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award at the Songwriters Hall of Fame on June 14 in New York. The organization's chairman, Jimmy Webb, says Midler "captivated the world" with her "stylish presentation and unmistakable voice, making each song her own." Past Sammy Cahn honorees include

Dick Clark, Neil Diamond and Tony Bennett. The Songwriters Hall of Fame is inducting Bob Seger, Gordon Lightfoot, Don Schlitz, Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, and Jim Steinman this year.

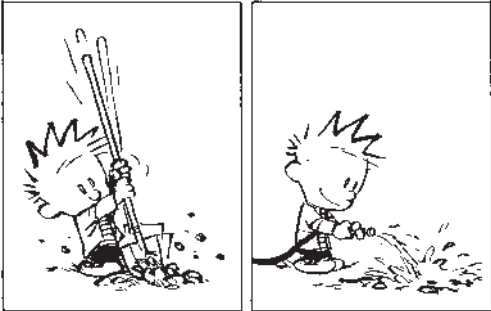
Chesney, Aldean, McGraw to perform at ACM Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kenny Chesney, Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw, Miranda Lambert and Toby Keith are among the stars who will perform at the Academy of Country Music Awards next

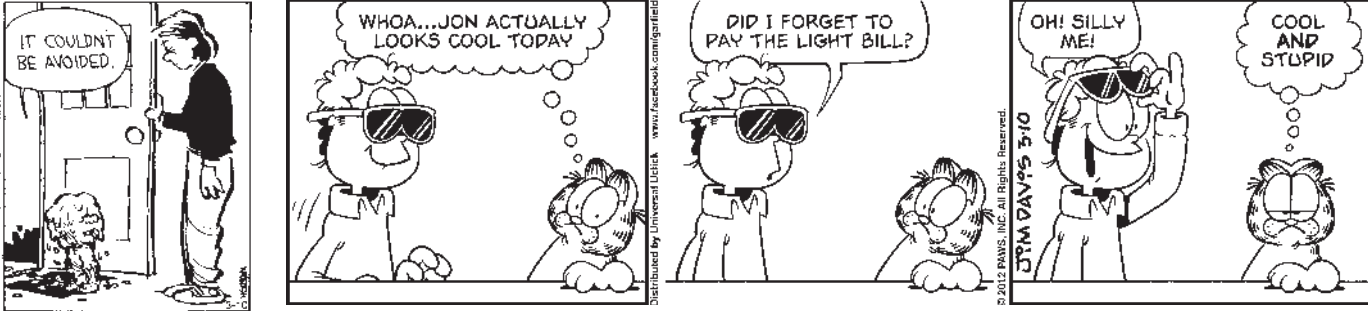
month. Eric Church and Luke Bryan round out the first wave of performers announced by the academy on Thursday. Reba McEntire and Blake Shelton co-host the 47th annual awards show, which will air live April 1 from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on CBS. Chesney leads all nominees with nine and Aldean is next with six. Both are up for the night's top honors - entertainer, album and male vocalist of the year. Church and Bryan also will headline the ACM's free concerts at Fremont Street Experience on March 30-31.

Pastimes

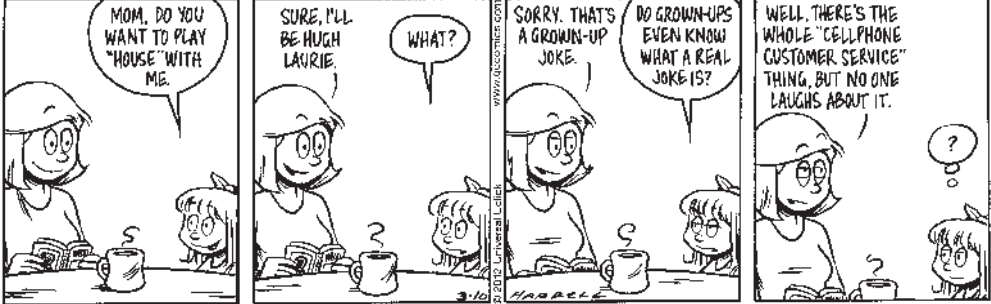
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grand tale

5 Slight amounts

9 Bake sale org.

12 Timber wolf

13 Laugh-a-minute

14 Bobby of hockey lore

15 Quick cut

16 Unrestrained indulgence

17 Mainlander's memento

18 Vortex

19 Lustrous black

20 Requirement

21 Sony rival

23 Chowd down

25 Country

28 Very large number

32 Straight-en

33 Boredom

34 Giggly noise

DOWN

1 Otherwise

2 Frogs' hangout

3 Footnote abbr.

4 Inventors : patents

5 USC

6 Wealthy one's suffix?

7 GI ID

8 Pigpen

9 Staff

10 Genealogy

11 Saharan

20 Broadway

22 Ice-cream parlor supply

24 Walk like a pigeon

25 "King" Cole

26 Hearty brew

27 Cravat

29 Wilde-beest

30 No longer chic

31 Golfer's concern

35 Unsophisticated

36 Author — du Maurier

39 Consider

40 Choir member

41 One-named super-model

43 On the rocks

45 Waikiki site

46 Glitter, for short

47 Hodge-podge

49 Biblical verb suffix

Solution time: 27 mins.

E	A	R	L	A	D	E	M	E	M	O
B	I	O	A	L	O	E	A	V	O	W
B	L	O	W	B	A	C	K	N	I	L
F	E	E	S	O	I	L	E	D		
M	O	R	A	L	M	E	T	A		
I	V	A	N	M	I	M	I	C	K	E
D	E	C	B	O	N	U	S	N	A	Y
I	N	K	B	L	O	T	S	D	A	R
M	Y	N	A	H	S	U	M	S		
Y	O	U	R	W	O	L	F	P	A	C
T	Y	K	E	E	D	I	T	C	O	O
H	O	E	S	D	E	M	I	K	E	N

Yesterday's answer 3-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Wilde, 28; Carrie Underwood, 29; Jon Hamm, 41; Sharon Stone, 54.

Happy Birthday: You will have plenty of choices. Consider the pros and cons before you make a decision. Focus on what's required to maintain the lifestyle you want. You don't have to give up the things you love, but you may have to exercise moderation to avoid instability or loss. Do what's best for you. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 21, 26, 34, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Discipline will pay off. Surprise everyone by waiting until you are fully prepared to present what you've been working toward. A partnership is likely to lead to finishing touches that will fine-tune your relationship and lead to interesting options. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take care of your emotional well-being. Do whatever it takes to reduce stress. Engage in a project that will allow you to use your skills wisely and more efficiently. You will learn from participating in physically challenging activities and events. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The help you offer others will lead to a lucrative opportunity. The services and skills you take for granted will be in demand. Think outside the box and you will find a way to subsidize your income. An investment will pay off. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't jump to conclusions or let someone bully you into doing something you don't care to do. Stick to your schedule and focus on your own

responsibilities, not those of others. A creative approach to a problem will lead to success. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changing your mind is your prerogative, but expect someone to overreact. Take on more responsibility at home and you will please someone who needs a little extra help. A short trip or change of scenery will help lift your spirits. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Join in and have fun. Get your juices flowing and build your enthusiasm. Participation will lead to new friendships and the opportunity to be a part of something that will ease your stress and give you something to look forward to. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll attract attention, leading to decisions that can alter your lifestyle. A new look will motivate you to branch out and try something different. Networking or getting involved in an unusual pastime will be motivational. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Nurture important relationships. Take the time to listen and to contribute to a better environment for you and the ones you love. An unusual approach to the way you run your home will help provide purpose to everyone involved. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make every moment with friends and family count. Do your best to compromise if it will help you get what you want in return. Striving for equality should be your goal. Changing your surroundings at home will stimulate you mentally. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

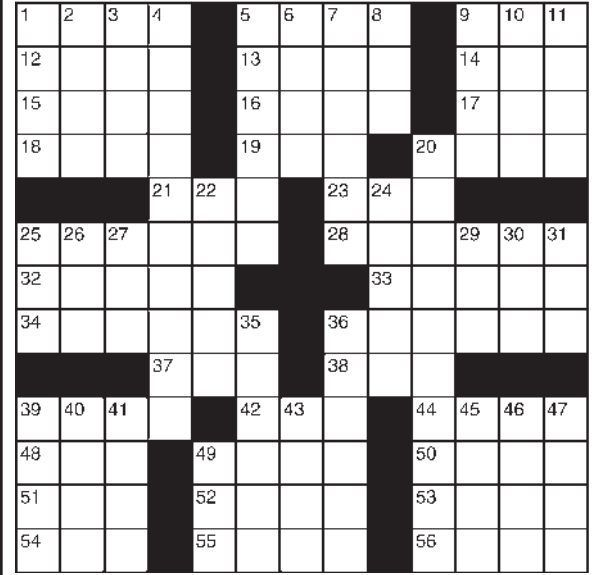
COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make a move or renovate your residence to better suit your needs. Avoid unpredictable people. Stick to the methods you have always counted on in the past. Love is highlighted, and a little romance should be scheduled. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on your ability to adapt and devise unique solutions and you will succeed. Don't overreact or become excessive if you want to reach your goals. A passionate approach regarding a personal relationship will bring the best results. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Walk down memory lane and you will revisit projects, plans and goals that can be revamped, updated and resurrected. A partnership that is on shaky ground should be rekindled. Your desire and determination will lead to victory. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sophisticated and masterful. You strive for quality over quantity. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5										
	3	2		1	6			7		
8			7				2			
3							5			
	6		3		8					
7							4			
4			2				1			
2		9	7		4	3				
								9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/10

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	6	2	5	4	9	8	1		
1	2	8	7	6	9	3	4	5		
5	4	9	1	3	8	2	6	7		
9	5	3	4	2	6	7	1	8		
2	7	4	3	8	1	6	5	9		
6	8	1	9	7	5	4	3	2		
8	6	2	5	4	7	1	9	3		
3	9	5	6	1	2	8	7	4		
4	1	7	8	9	3	5	2	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FOUND IN A TRUCK

Solution: 6 letters

B	B	S	B	T	L	A	S	R	E	H	S	A	L	F
O	A	L	E	R	E	M	M	A	H	F	U	E	L	O
O	N	T	A	I	I	S	E	V	L	A	V	U	A	O
S	D	H	T	N	R	C	U	P	S	O	I	T	B	D
T	A	G	G	E	K	E	K	T	H	D	E	R	I	W
E	G	I	L	L	R	E	C	S	N	W	R	A	E	I
R	E	L	O	B	A	Y	T	O	W	E	L	S	E	N
S	S	H	V	A	G	E	P	O	R	E	T	H	R	D
C	K	S	E	C	S	E	O	O	S	G	A	B	I	O
R	C	A	S	N	N	D	C	S	P	A	M	R	T	W
A	A	L	T	S	O	K	R	S	N	G	H	U	E	B
P	N	F	O	E	S	H	K	O	T	G	O	S	P	E
E	S	E	O	H	S	O	P	A	C	U	S	H	R	L
R	R	E	L	O	O	C	O	C	H	L	E	P	A	T
D	N	A	S	B	A	C	K	P	A	C	K	S	C	S

3/10

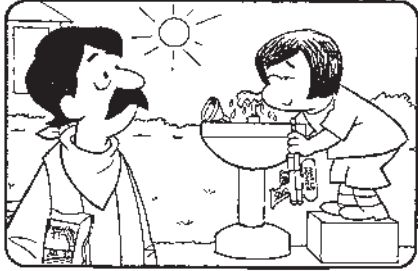
Backpacks, Bags, Ball, Bandages, Battery, Belts, Blanket, Books, Booster, Bricks, Brush, Cable, Carpet, Coat, Cooler, Cord, Cups, Flashers, Flashlight, Fluid, Food, Fuel, Gloves, Groceries, Hammer, Hose, Luggage, Maps, Pens, Phone, Rags, Rocks, Rope, Salt, Sand, Scraper, Shoes, Shovel, Skates, Snacks, Stools, Tape, Tent, Tire, Towels, Trash, Valves, Window, Wire, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Improve

The NEW Treasury 1000. Licensed by Universal Uclick. Play from 10/1/11. ©2011 Universal Uclick. All rights reserved. U.S. Patent 7,812,111. For full terms, see www.universaluck.com. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. 1-800-444-4444. 30 seconds of silence. 2011. 25 minutes. 2011. 2011. 2011.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



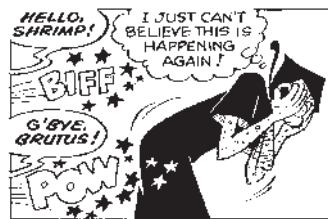
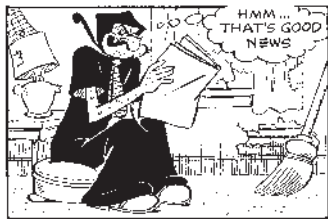
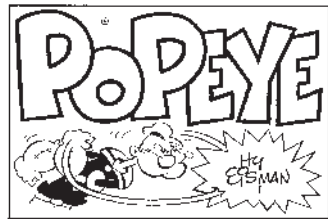
CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with these key: 1. Man's shirt is missing. 2. Woman's hair is missing. 3. Woman's hair is missing. 4. Woman's hair is missing. 5. Woman's hair is missing. 6. Woman's hair is missing.

Wishing Well®

2	4	3	2	7	8	5	4	8	3	6	3	8
S	A	B	P	S	S	G	S	U	E	L	D	C
5	7	4	2	4	5	6	8	2	6	8	2	6
L	E	O	R	C	A	O	C	E	V	E	A	I
5	2	3	6	3	4	2	6	8	4	2	7	3
D	D	E	N	T	I	C	G	S	A	H	T	E
6	4	6	4	3	6	2	7	6	2	5	8	3
F	L	R	E	R	I	A	G	E	R	F	S	M
8	2	7	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	3	5	7
U	I	O	I	N	N	V	O	A	B	N	R	L
6	7	4	2	4	7	6	8	5	2	5	3	7
D	S	E	T	N	H	S	O	O	Y	T	E	I
3	8	7	4	7	8	5	8	5	8	5	8	5
D	U	G	T	H	N	H	D	E	E	R	D	S

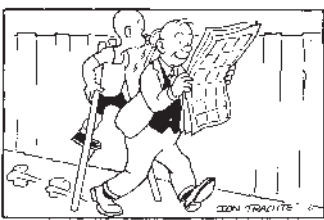
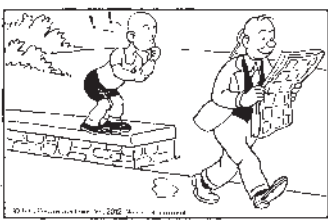
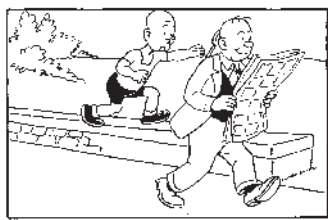
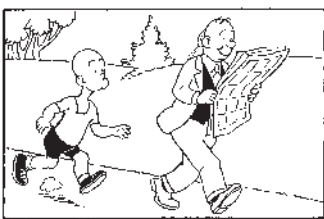
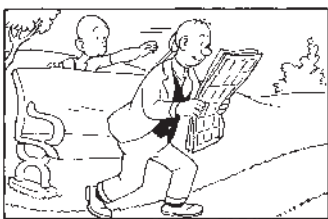
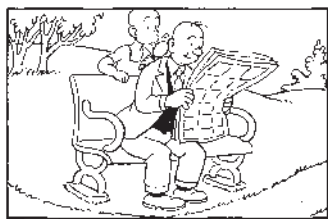
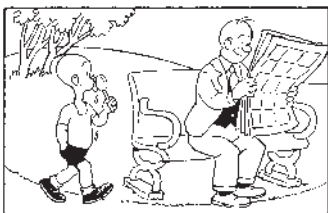
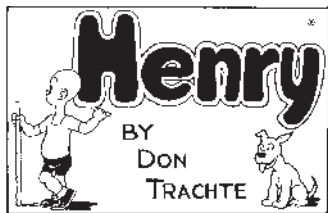
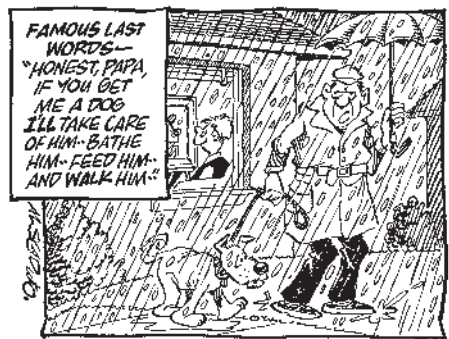
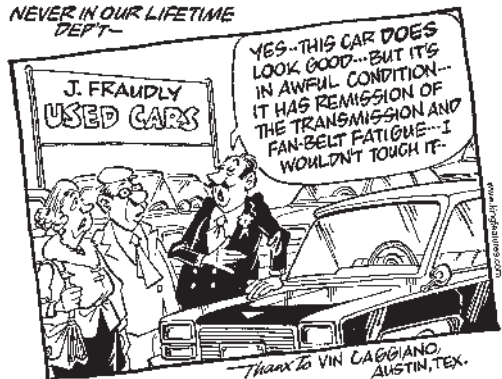
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved



They'll Do It Every Time
NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME
DEPT.

by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

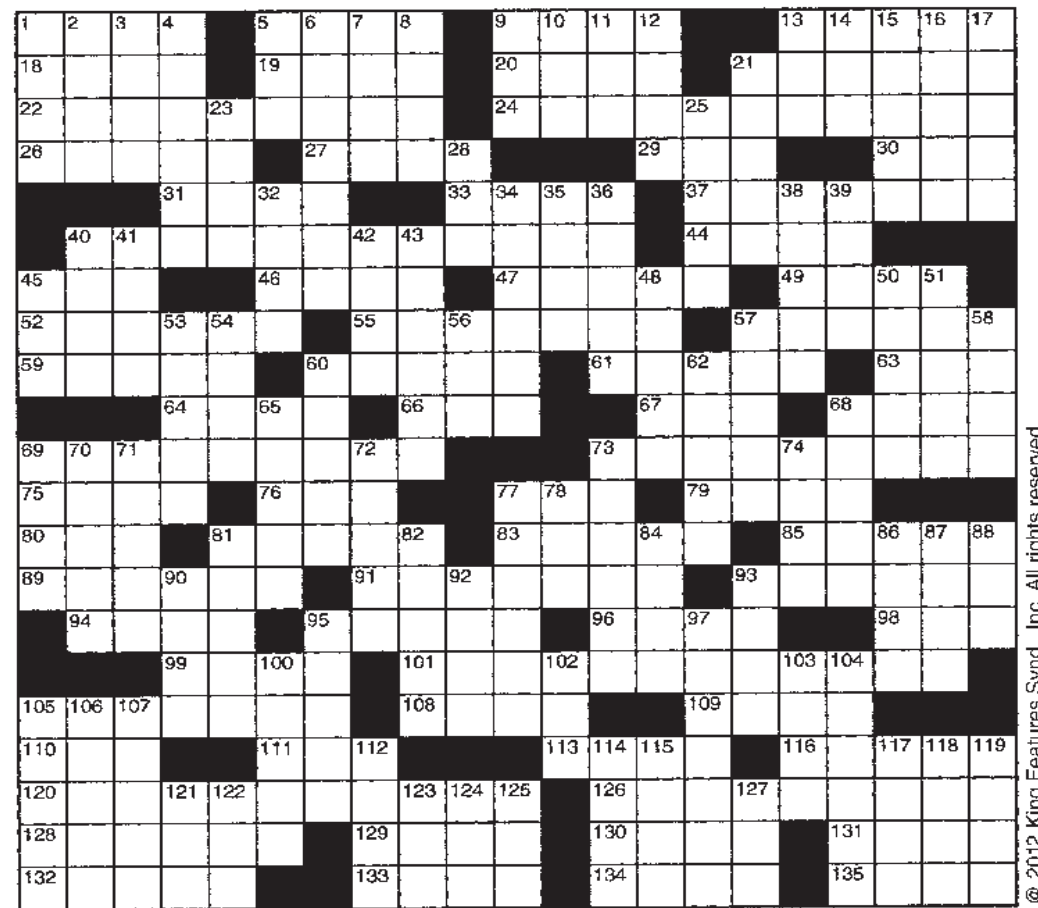
STRICTLY SPEAKING

ACROSS

- 1 Summer stinger
- 5 Sailor's quaff
- 9 In the sack
- 13 Master, in Madras
- 18 "Dies —"
- 19 Melodious
- 20 — Valley, CA
- 21 Walked confidently
- 22 Tenured?
- 24 Ex-wife, sometimes?
- 26 Roman official
- 27 Urms
- 29 Bus, bigwig
- 30 Plant part
- 31 Blyton
- 33 Tabula —
- 37 At full tilt
- 40 Violin bows?
- 44 Evils
- 45 Terry-cloth inscription
- 46 Cookbook author
- 47 Deed
- 49 Wraps up
- 52 Incompetent
- 55 Neighbor of Latvia
- 57 TV's "The — Game"
- 59 Melo-dramatic
- 60 Progress
- 61 Chaka Khan's group
- 63 Pigeon English?
- 64 To boot
- 66 Spud bud
- 67 Bulldog, for one
- 68 "Blame — Rio" ('84 film)
- 69 Capone impersonator?
- 73 Hire a private eye?
- 75 Landed
- 76 Palm
- 77 Humbug lead-in
- 79 Act like an antelope
- 80 Oxford figure
- 81 Vote in
- 83 "Watership Down" author
- 85 Defy a dictator
- 89 Salad veggie
- 91 Geronimo's birthplace
- 93 Draw
- 94 Donated
- 95 Swedish currency
- 96 Mardi —
- 98 It may be white
- 99 Signor Ferrari
- 101 Stock-brokers?
- 105 Petite pet
- 108 Blood components
- 109 Kid at court
- 110 Former govt. agcy.
- 111 Carpenter
- 113 Wine valley
- 116 Exit
- 120 FDA-approved snack?
- 126 "Equus," for instance?
- 128 Inventor Otis
- 129 Dingy digs
- 130 Pat on the buns?
- 131 Kuwaiti ruler
- 132 Blackboard
- 133 Type of chalcedony
- 134 Holler
- 135 Odense denizen
- 6 Keep the shelves stocked
- 7 Crumhorn cousin
- 8 Sail support
- 9 Furniture wood
- 10 Jacket info
- 11 Big bird
- 12 — brakes
- 13 Canonized Mlle.
- 14 "— you for real?"
- 15 Was an optimist
- 16 Unimprovable
- 17 Juicy fruit
- 21 Toast word
- 23 Await judgment
- 25 Macabre
- 28 — Lanka
- 32 Tennis pro Nastase
- 34 Moss Hart's auto-biography
- 35 "— Game" ('71 film)
- 36 Up and about
- 38 Requests
- 39 Ain't right?
- 40 Spanish sherry
- 41 Author Dinesen
- 42 "Peter Pan" pirate
- 43 Tried a mouthful
- 45 "What?"
- 48 Crack up
- 50 Proclamations
- 51 A nose that shows
- 53 Coal-of-arms figure
- 54 Lovett or Waggoner
- 56 Italian greyhound, e.g.
- 57 Ignoramus
- 58 Used up
- 60 Gaggles gal
- 62 Wood and gas
- 65 Sedimentary stuff
- 68 Force
- 69 Lose luster
- 70 "— Comes Mary" ('66 song)
- 71 Dano or Darnell
- 72 Messy Madison
- 73 Nickels and dimes
- 74 Designer Lagerfeld
- 77 Church sale
- 78 Bustle
- 81 Happening
- 82 Latin class no-nos
- 84 Scratches the surface
- 86 Zodiac animal
- 87 Buffalo waterfront
- 88 Actor Horsley
- 90 Currier's partner
- 92 Memo start
- 93 On a whale watch, perhaps
- 95 Asian nation
- 97 Clothes
- 100 African equine
- 102 Quayle or Blocker
- 103 Eye appreciatively
- 104 Acted like a chick
- 105 Garden supplies
- 106 In the slightest degree
- 107 "GoodFellas" group
- 112 Return address?
- 114 "Hi, sailor!"
- 115 Battery part
- 117 — mater
- 118 Self-smitten
- 119 Thornfield governess
- 121 Cornerstone abbr.
- 122 "Evita" character
- 123 "— Tiki"
- 124 TV Tarzan
- 125 King's handle?
- 127 Costa del —

DOWN

- 1 Man's altar ego?
- 2 Like the Kalahari
- 3 Agra attire
- 4 Prepared a pineapple
- 5 Whippet's warning



© 2012 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.



1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What term refers to a type of patterned sock or sweater and a region within a country?
2. LOGOS: What is the official logo of the Atlanta Braves baseball team?
3. HOLIDAYS: When was Father's Day first celebrated officially?
4. CHEMISTRY: What is the color of sulfur at room temperature?
5. ANATOMY: What human organs are responsible for cleaning waste from blood?
6. HISTORY: In what year did U.S. law require cars to include

7. FOOD & DRINK: Which vegetables are used primarily in succotash?
8. BIBLE: What is the longest book in the Old Testament?
9. U.S. GOVERNMENT: Which

- turn signals?
10. MOVIES: What new category was added to the Academy Awards in 2001?

Constitutional Amendment deals with self-incrimination?

Saturday's Answers

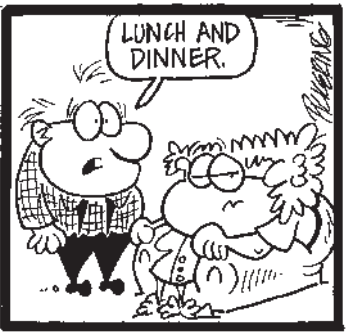
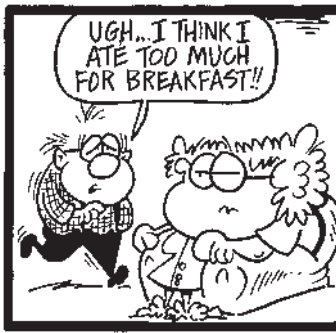


1. Argyle (sock and sweater) and the
2. A tomahawk
3. 1910
4. Yellow
5. Kidneys

6. 1954
7. Corn and lima beans
8. Psalms, with 150 chapters
9. The Fillin'
10. Best Animated Feature

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WANTED TO BUY

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution: Behind every great man there's a woman

Medical Sales Representative (\$5.05 - \$ 8.00/hour)

- Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology or other related field
 - 1 year experience and knowledge in handling laboratory supplies, equipment, and reagents.
 - Knowledge in medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, equipment, and reagents.
 - 1 year experience in sales and marketing
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills
 - Available to work during nights and weekends (when needed)
 - Valid CNMI Driver's License

** Applicants may be interviewed and tested.

Interested applicant may contact: MedPharm at (671) 632-6000 or email: medpharm@medpharmusa.com

WANTED TO BUY

We want to buy Continental OnePass Miles. Please call tel: 234-6533

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

GRAPHIC ARTIST WANTED Part Time (Nights and Weekends)

- Must own computer and software to perform designs.
- Knowledge of local culture and designs a must.

Contact **I AM SAIPAN** office at 234-0167 or Mobile 989-9606

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR SALE

Toyota Tundra Pick-Up Truck 2000 Model, 4 door, new chassis recall from Micro, 4 Wheel Drive. Good condition, Good offer. Please call 285-5547.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. \$695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CHURCHILL

MANDELA

GANDHI

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Magic end Bulls' 8-game win streak

CHICAGO (AP)—Dwight Howard had 29 points and 18 rebounds to lead the Orlando Magic to a 99-94 win over the Bulls on Thursday, snapping Chicago's eight-game winning streak.

Chicago twice overcame double-digit deficits and led 91-89 with 2:56 to play after Derrick Rose passed to Carlos Boozer for a jumper.

Orlando responded with an 8-1 run started by Jameer Nelson's lob to Howard for a dunk.

Ryan Anderson hit a 3 and a pair of free throws in the game-deciding rally.

The Magic bounced back from a 100-84 loss at Charlotte, beating the league-best Bulls two nights after losing to the last-place Bobcats.

Boozer led the Bulls with 26 points. Rose added 17 points and nine assists, but shot just 6 for 22 from the field.

Jason Richardson scored 18 points and hit four 3-pointers for the Magic. Orlando hit 11 3-pointers.

Orlando led by 10 early in the fourth quarter before Chicago tied the game with a nine-point run. Boozer scored eight points in the first three minutes of the quarter.

The Magic jumped out to a 17-point lead in the first quarter after a conventional three-point play finished by Howard capped an 11-point Orlando run. Orlando shot 15 for 20 and hit six 3-pointers in the opening period.

The Magic still led by 15 after Howard put in a lob from Hedo Turkoglu with 1:58 to go in the first half. Howard scored 19 points before the break.

Kyle Korver scored eight straight Chicago points to keep the Bulls in the game, then Chicago reeled off the last 10 points of the quarter to gain the momentum heading into the break.

Luol Deng hit a wide-open 3 after an offensive rebound by Joakim Noah, cutting the Orlando lead to single digits for the first time since midway through the first quarter.

Nelson threw away a pass and Rose hit a running 3 as the half expired, drawing Chicago within 57-52.

In the third quarter, Boozer capped an 8-2 run with a short jumper that gave Chicago its first lead of the game. Orlando



responded with a 13-4 run to end the quarter, the last six of its points coming on back-to-back Richardson 3-pointers.

Suns 96, Mavericks 94

In Phoenix, Jared Dudley scored 12 of his 18 points in a third-quarter comeback as Phoenix held on to beat Dallas for the Suns' first victory over the Mavericks in nine attempts.

Grant Hill scored 10 of his 15 points in the second half for Phoenix, but missed two free throws with 15.4 seconds left. Dallas had two chances after that, but Rodrigue Beauboi missed a driving layup, then couldn't hit an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer.

Marcin Gortat added 16 points and 12 rebounds as the Suns won their fourth straight home game, their longest streak in nearly two years. Steve Nash had 11 points and 11 assists.

Vince Carter and Dirk Nowitzki had 18 points apiece for Dallas in the Mavericks' fifth road loss in a row.

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard dunks the ball over Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng, lying on court, and Joakim Noah during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, March 8, 2012, in Chicago.

AP

Yankees' Robertson hurts foot in fall down stairs

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP)—David Robertson limped out of the Yankees clubhouse in Tampa, holding a pair of crutches, his right foot in an oversized black boot.

He sprained a foot when he stumbled on stairs while moving empty boxes at his home, and the team sounded worried there might be a significant injury to the All-Star reliever. Instead of making his second spring training appearance, Robertson made two trips to a hospital for X-rays, an MRI and CT scan.

"The initial tests that he took gave us some cause for concern," manager Joe Girardi said after Thursday's 6-1 loss to Toronto. "We're not sure what's going on."

Girardi said earlier the initial diagnosis was a mid-foot sprain. Test results will be sent to New York to be evaluated by team physician Dr. Christopher Ahmad. The Yankees said Ahmad will consult with Dr. Justin Greisberg, whose specialties include orthopedic surgery and foot trauma.

Between hospital trips, Robertson returned to the clubhouse at Steinbrenner Field and hoped for the best.

"It's embarrassing. I already had Mo rag me out about it," he said after speaking with closer Mariano Rivera.

Girardi emphasized several times the extent of the injury was not clear.

"I'm not so sure that he's going to miss enough time that we won't have him opening day," he said. "I mean until we get the test results, I'm not going to know."

Robertson was hurt Wednesday night at his home in St. Petersburg. He picked up two empty boxes, one inside the other, and walked down the stairs to leave them for recycling.

"I just misjudged one step and just caught it funny, and it just kind of rolled under me," he said.

He understands some may think there's more to the story, that the injury couldn't be caused by a tumble at home.

"I can tell you right now that's the truth," he said. "My wife was like, 'What are you

doing down there?' She saw me laying there on my foot."

Robertson said his foot started throbbing an hour or two later but he applied ice and it felt better in the morning. Girardi said if Robertson were sidelined for two weeks or less, he still could be ready for the Yankees' opener at Tampa Bay on April 6.

"If it's going to happen, let it happen now," Girardi said.

Robertson had a breakout season in 2011, going 4-0 with a 1.08 ERA in 70 games and becoming the Yankees' primary setup man.

"Last year, he did a tremendous job," Rivera said. "So we're expecting something good out of him this year, also."

If Robertson isn't ready for opening day, Rafael Soriano likely would move up to New York's eighth-inning pitcher.

New York has bad memories of pitchers and injured feet.

Chien-Ming Wang sprained the Lisfranc ligament in his right foot while running the bases at Houston on June 15, 2008, and missed the rest of the season. Wang struggled to a 1-6 record with a 9.64 ERA when he returned the following year. He needed shoulder surgery that sidelined him until last July, when he came back to the majors with the Washington Nationals.

"I think he had problems with the shoulder before that," Girardi said.

For now, the sunny optimism of spring training dissipated and was replaced by angst.

"There's always something in every camp," Girardi said. "Something freaky happens, whether it's a foul ball, or you get hit with a ball in BP. It's the nature of the game. It's life. You can't stop living because you have a job. You have responsibilities."

He joked about the need for additional team rules.

"You're not allowed to carry boxes. Kick them down the stairs," he said before pausing and adding: "If he had like an elevator in his house, his arm would have got stuck or something. Just throw them out the window. And hopefully it doesn't land on your car."

Adam Scott, Jason Dufner tied for Doral lead

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Playing only his sixth round of the year, Adam Scott faced a strong test Thursday at Doral and never looked better.

In fierce and relentless wind on the TPC Blue Monster at Doral, Scott kept the ball in play and then hung on for dear life for a 6-under 66 that gave him a share of the lead with Jason Dufner in the Cadillac Championship.

"When you're in the fairway on a day like today, you get a chance to hit it somewhere near the hole, give yourself an opportunity," Scott said. "If you're in the rough, it's very hard to even just hit the green, let alone give yourself a chance. I took advantage of the good shots early on, and then battled by way in from there."

It was a battle all day for Rory McIlroy in his first event at No. 1 in the world. He twice flirted with the water, had a three-putt bogey and wound up with a 73.

Tiger Woods wasn't much better. He began his round with a tap-in eagle on the par-5 first hole, but narrowly missed the fairways and had a tough time figuring out the wind and whether the ball would jump out of the rough. Woods badly misjudged the line of his chip on the 18th hole and closed with a bogey for a 72.

It wasn't a devastating start for either of them.

Only a dozen players managed to break 70, and a dozen more broke par. The average score was 72.7, and no hole was more terrifying than the par-4 18th, which was 471 yards dead into the wind, water hugging the

entire left side of the hole and front of the green.

The average score was 4.74, which was more than three of the par 5s.

"I hit 3-wood into 18, par 4, and 7-iron into the first, which is a par 5," Luke Donald said after a 70. "Just a beast of a hole today."

Masters champion Charl Schwartzel made a par, and his reaction spoke volumes.

"Felt like an eagle," he said. "It's one of those where you just really have to take it on. There's

nowhere out. I probably hit my best tee shot of the day down there, a beautiful 5-iron and ran off there with a 4. I'm very happy."

Schwartzel and Thomas Bjorn were at 68, while the group at 69 included PGA champion Keegan Bradley and Steve Stricker, who was tied for the lead through 12 holes and dropped three shots in the final hour.

"The course is playable. You can see it in the scores," Stricker said. "It's still playable, whether we have this kind of wind or not. So it's manageable out there, and you just have to play hard and play well."

Sergio Garcia had the ugliest finish of all.

The Spaniard was one shot out of the lead through 12 holes. He didn't hit a fairway the rest of the way, nor did he make so much as a par. He followed five straight bogeys by hitting two shots into the water on the 18th and taking triple bogey. Over that six-hole stretch, Garcia went from being 5-under par to signing for a 75.

Dufner made bogey on the 18th, but that was the middle of his round. He took advantage of the downwind holes on the front side with birdies, then holed a birdie putt from just inside 30 feet on the fourth. He closed out his round with a 7-iron to about a foot.

"A lot easier to finish on nine than 18," Dufner said.

Scott also finished on the par-3 ninth hole. He was hitting the ball so well in the early part of his round that when someone

asked him how caddie Steve Williams helped him, Scott smiled and said, "He just got out of my way today. I didn't ask too much of Steve out there today. I just aimed down the middle and hit it there."

Scott also had a short eagle putt on No. 1, and twice made solid par saves. His lone bogey came from a bunker on the sixth hole, where he missed a 4-foot par putt.

It's a slow start to the year for the Australian, who is trying to keep himself fresh and get more out of his practice time. Scott didn't start the year until Riviera, where he tied for 17th. At the Match Play Championship, he lost in the opening round. He took another week off, spending his time in San Diego, and came out to the wind tunnel that is Doral.

"I knew a good score was going to happen because every part of my game was feeling good," Scott said. "You've got to take away the expectation and just let it happen. But I wasn't too concerned."

Lee Westwood, playing

alongside McIlroy and Donald in the traditional 1-2-3 group from the top of the world ranking, had a 76.

McIlroy was coming off a couple of big weeks—reaching the Match Play Championship final with a chance to go to No. 1, then winning the Honda Classic to get to the top of the ranking, all while Woods fired a 62 at him in the final round.

McIlroy said he was mentally flat.

"It's tough," he said. "When you're working, you've got Arizona and you've got a chance to go to world No. 1, and then Honda, you've got a chance ... then all of a sudden you're there, and you're like, 'What do you do?' I just need to go out and set myself a target tomorrow and try and post a number."

Woods made consecutive eagles, though they were four days apart on different courses. He finished the Honda Classic with an eagle, and started that way at Doral. The rest of the day wasn't that easy.

"It was just a difficult day," Woods said. "The wind was blowing putts around, and it made for a very challenging round."

Woods was hardly out of the mix. The wind is expected to blow most of the week, from a similar direction, meaning most of the par 5s can be reached in two, and some of the par 4s and be brutal.

"When you wake up on a day like this when it's this windy, you know that you have to play solid golf and keep the big mistakes off the scorecard," Bjorn said. "That's the crucial part, and I did that today."

Marino: Manning 'fits with anybody' in NFL



AVENTURA, Fla. (AP)—If Peyton Manning wants to talk about playing quarterback for the Miami Dolphins, Dan Marino would be thrilled to take his call.

And just in case, Marino has his sales pitch ready.

"There's great tradition there. We've had a couple off years but believe me, they'll be back," said Marino, the Hall of Famer who threw for 420 touchdowns and more than 61,000 yards in his Dolphins career. "It's a great franchise and they'll get it turned around."

Manning would almost certainly help in that quest, which largely started when Marino retired more than a decade ago.

From the moment the four-time MVP parted with the Indianapolis Colts on Wednesday, buzz about Manning has been growing in Miami—much of it fueled by the quarterback's arrival in South Florida shortly after becoming an NFL free agent for the first time. Manning insists he doesn't know what his next move will be, and Marino believes him.

"I think he fits with anybody," Marino said Thursday at a charity golf tournament. "He's one of the best to ever play the game at that position. So wherever he ends up playing, if he's healthy, which is going to be important to Peyton, I'm sure he wants to go out there and play at a high level. Wherever he plays, he'll be a huge impact for that team."

The Dolphins are believed to be one of the teams interested in adding Manning; Miami plays a game at Indianapolis next season. Washington, Arizona, Seattle, Denver and Kansas City also are likely to talk to him, along with the Jets—the team that shares a stadium with the Giants and Manning's two-time, Super Bowl-winning brother Eli. ESPN reported Thursday that Manning will make a decision within the next week and wants to stay in the AFC.

"I know he likes the weather here in Miami, but I have no idea where he's going to go," said wide receiver Pierre Garcon, who caught 10 touchdown passes from Manning in 2009 and 2010. "I could not tell you anything."

Added Reggie Wayne, who has been working out with Manning: "I don't know. Ask Peyton."

Manning's arrival in Miami doesn't necessarily mean the Dolphins are front-runners to get him. He owns a condo in Miami Beach, where television crews were staked out Thursday.

"He does like his privacy—and he's not going to have much of it until everyone finds out where he's going to go," Garcon said.

Why keep playing?

"He's a competitor. He loves the game. He loves winning," Garcon said. "You can never have enough Super Bowl rings. He wants to win and he wants to keep playing. ... When you walk in a stadium with Peyton, you have at least a fighting chance to win a game."

After the Colts decided not to pick up Manning's \$28 million bonus, team owner Jim Irsay ended months of speculation by releasing the 14-year veteran and longtime face of the franchise. Indianapolis likely will find Manning's replacement in April's draft, presumably Stanford's Andrew Luck. The Colts have the first overall pick.

Manning missed the entire 2011 season because



Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, front, hugs quarterback Peyton Manning after announcing that the NFL football team will release Manning during a news conference in Indianapolis, Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

of a damaged nerve that caused weakness in his right arm. He had the most recent of his multiple neck surgeries on Sept. 8.

Once the fusion has healed, the bone is as strong as any other in his neck, if not stronger, several doctors said.

"Did it heal? Is the rest of his neck in pretty good shape? If those two answers are yes, then it gets down to 'OK, get out on the field and show me you can perform,' because it will only get better from here with time," said Dr. Robert S. Bray Jr., a spine specialist who has treated NHL star Sidney Crosby and Olympic hurdler Lolo Jones.

For the time being, the Manning watch is consuming Miami.

Dwyane Wade reached out to Manning on Twitter, and LeBron James took time in a postgame television interview after the Heat beat Atlanta on

Wednesday night to briefly sell Manning on the merits of South Florida.

Will Marino call him?

"I probably wouldn't do that unless he asks for some advice," Marino said. "And he has plenty of people that he's working with to help him make the right decisions."

Dolphins kicker Dan Carpenter said if Manning says he's healthy enough to play, then that's good enough for him.

"He's a great football player," Carpenter said. "I definitely think having Peyton Manning won't hurt your chances. ... Obviously, I don't know how hard we're pursuing him. It's hard to say what Peyton Manning's thinking. I'm sure he's going to talk to his family, think about himself and think about where he wants to be and make that decision."

'Bounty' coordinator Williams on job with Rams

ST. LOUIS (AP)—For now, it's business as usual for Gregg Williams, who is on the job behind closed doors with the rest of the St. Louis assistant coaches.

The parking lot at the team's training facility is full this week because there's plenty to do. Free agency starts next week, and there will be minicamps before and after the draft for the Rams, plus they're all still getting to know the roster. There's that No. 2 overall pick to deal with.

It can't hurt staying busy while waiting for the hammer to fall.

Williams, the Rams' new defensive coordinator, is facing a possible suspension and fine after admitting that he ran a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 over the past three seasons when he was the defensive coordinator in New Orleans. The NFL said players received payoffs for knocking targeted opponents out of the game.

Whether Williams is shelved for two weeks, a month or longer, the Rams must make contingency plans.

Aside from releasing Williams' apology, the franchise that inherited this scandal has had little to say. Players and coaches are not being made available for interviews.

"Coach Williams has shown contrition for his actions and continues to cooperate with the NFL in this investigation," Rams chief operating officer Kevin Demoff said in a statement Thursday to The Associated Press. "Out of respect for the NFL's ongoing process, we will refrain from commenting until the league has come to a final decision on all aspects of this matter."

New coach Jeff Fisher was out of town and he isn't talking, either, until the NFL issues its ruling. Williams met with NFL security officials on Monday as part of the league's investigation; no timetable has been disclosed by the league for a decision from Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Dick Vermeil, who has 19 years of NFL coaching experience including the Rams' lone Super Bowl win in 2000, said in a telephone interview that he was unaware of any bounties during his coaching career.

"There were always rumors, but often it seemed like something of a joke, like you'd hear kids were throwing in 50 bucks apiece," Vermeil said. "Hopefully, this is isolated, hopefully the story doesn't get bigger as the investigation goes deeper."

Like many players, Vermeil said he believes Williams' reputation is solid around the league.

"Sometimes you can get caught up in the enthusiasm and intensity of the game and it overpowers your judgment," Vermeil said. "But I like him, he's a good man, and he made a mistake."

Williams' punishment could be stiffer given the NFL's emphasis the last few seasons on reducing concussions—the definition of a knockout.

"That has been a big issue, and now this comes up," Vermeil said. "I think it almost puts them under pressure to react more strongly when something like this is going on."

Assistant head coach Dave McGinnis is the logical fill-in candidate at defensive coordinator should Williams be suspended. McGinnis is a former NFL head coach and has an extensive background in defense, including five years as the Cardinals' defensive coordinator from 1996-2000, and great success coaching linebackers under Fisher in Tennessee.

McGinnis built his reputation in a decade as linebackers coach with the Chicago, working with defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan and tutoring Hall of Famer Mike Singletary.

Howard of US signs new long-term deal with Everton

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—U.S. goalkeeper Tim Howard has extended his contract at Everton, tying him to the Premier League club until 2016.

The 33-year-old Howard has played 256 games for Everton since joining from Manchester United in 2006, initially on loan before signing a permanent deal in February 2007.

"It's a place that is home for me," Howard said in an Everton statement.

Howard's consistent performances for the northwest club have helped him keep the goalkeeper jersey for the U.S. national team. He played last week in the historic 1-0 win in Italy.

He has played 72 times for the U.S.

Howard this season scored his first professional goal—a length-of-the-field effort in a 2-1 home loss to Bolton in January.

"When you have a really good relationship in life and both sides are eager to continue and keep that going, it's a no-brainer," Howard said of his new contract. "This hasn't been a knockdown, drawn-out type of negotiation with meetings or anything like that. They were very happy to keep me here and I was very, very happy to stay."

Whether he stays on playing into his 40s is another matter.

Fellow American goalkeeper Brad Friedel is

still impressive at 40 with Tottenham in the Premier League, while 39-year-old Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer recently signed a contract with Fulham until the summer of 2013—when he will be approaching 41.

"When (the new contract) is finished, I will take stock and figure out what I want to do," Howard said. "At 33, I find it difficult to figure out how the 40-year-old goalkeepers get out of bed in the morning."

"As long as I am healthy and still have the desire to compete, I have to consider continuing to play. But as you get to 38, 39, 40, those things start to diminish, especially physically."

SOS Mix Blood Shooters II, Try Luck lead divisions

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SEDA SOS Bar & Grill's Mix Blood Shooters II and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck are the current front-runners of their respective Saipan Electronic Dart Association A and Ladies divisions after Monday's matchups.

SOS downed Sand Juvy Restaurant's Predators (20-31), 12-5, on the road to improve to a win-loss record of 31-20. However, the current A division leader clings to the top spot by just one game over Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Bud Brothers.

Bud Brothers defeated VFW Post 3457's Primos (24-27), 10-7, at home and Naked Fish Bar & Grill's third-ranked Naked Fish Boyz (29-22) triumphed over SOS 101 Proofers (24-27), 10-7, in a road match.

Meanwhile, A division results include Bammy's Sabalu Boys (25-26) edging out sister team Celebrity (21-30), 9-8, in a home game.

Notables include a 170 High-In by Primos' Jeff Pangelinan and a 107 High-Out by Bud Brothers' Ernie Domingo.

Among the Ladies' defending champions Try Luck continues to flex its muscles and maintained a four-game lead atop the division with a 12-3 victory



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck, seen here in a file photo, holds the top position in the SEDA Ladies division after defeating Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Momes'l Mei, 12-3, last Monday.

over Bammy's Momes'l Mei (23-22); Try Luck improved to 33-12.

VFW's second-ranked B52 Shooters trampled the SOS's Daarty Deedz (10-35), 13-2, at home to remain as the only rival in Try Luck's range.

Kudos to 19th Hole Bar & Grill's last-ranked Team Reapers for upsetting Joe's Steakhouse's Daffodils (22-23), 10-5 on the road, while Naked Fish's third-ranked Man Amigas (17-13) and Joe's Just Like That (14-16) rescheduled their matchup.

Ladies' notables include a 154 High In by Try Luck's reigning league MVP Aida Laniyo and a 146 High Out by teammate Matrina Lisua.

RGA March qualifier Saturday



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its March Ace qualifying tournament tomorrow at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12nn.

Winner of the Saturday

event will own the score to beat for the March Ace plum.

Meanwhile, RGA is still open for membership for an annual fee of only \$25.

For more information, contact Joe Saures at 483-5506, Jess Wabul at 288-1129, and Jordan Kosam at 483-4506. (PR)

ROP 12

From Page 28

Jeremy "Pacman" Javellana debuts against Trench Tech's Tavita Lueta (1-0) at 140 lbs; Guam Muay Thai's Justin "JD" Dizon (1-0) goes up against Danny Agulto at 140 lbs; and Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo (4-0) takes on a K-1 Guahan opponent at 145 lbs.

Following the K-1 montage, four MMA bouts will precede the headliner matchups.

Ronald Hermosilla is set to take on Brandon "Commotion" Camacho at 145 lbs;

Independent fighter out of Tinian, Ton Borja, will clash with Trench Tech's Seong Ho Chung in a double debut at 145 lbs; Countershot's Aaron Magbuhat (1-0-D, win-loss-draw) faces Pete Cepeda; and Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga will collide with either Javon Sablan or Ryan Toves at 145 lbs.

The Japan versus Saipan super fight starts off the late action as Joji "Akuma" Matsunaga (2-0) takes on Trench Tech's Ning "Bo-Slice" Cepeda (4-2).

Then Zalaka's Joe Duenas (4-0) faces Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique (7-0) in the first-ever Trench Tech bantamweight title fight followed by a juicy grudge match between Spike 22 Guam's Rick Camp (3-0) and Marianas Elite's Vince "Vincsanity" Pua (4-0) at 145 lbs.

After Trench Tech's first bantamweight champion is crowned, Countershot Guam's Rob "The Real Deal" Wustig (4-5) returns to defend his lightweight belt against Trench Tech's Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (8-4).

After the title fights, a heavy-weight main event brawl caps off the evening between Trench

Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lasister (4-1) and Guam's Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki (1-0).

In related news, Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas fought valiantly in a losing effort in his Pacific Xtreme Combat 30 bout against Guam's Trevon Jones.

Duenas was submitted via rear-naked chokehold in the first round of the 135-lb match.

Notably, Duenas was hemmed up very tight. But simply would not tap and the fight was called off after he temporarily lost consciousness. His coach and mentor Cuki Alvarez attested that Duenas recovered swiftly and did not suffer any damage at all.

"Of course the outcome was not what we were hoping for, but [Duenas] fought like a warrior and literally left it all on the mat," expressed Alvarez upon their return.

According to Alvarez, Duenas was actually the aggressor in the standup game just after the opening bell.

In addition, Trench Tech would like to thank some more supporters who are helping the organization recover after its training gym burned down last Feb. 8.

Trench Tech received a \$1,000 check donation from Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. last week and received another donation just recently from Fokai Guam.

"I would like to thank FISG president Sheryl Sizemore Camacho and her staff as well as Fokai Guam and all of our other supporters in the community for helping us recover from this dreadful set back. We are humbled a grateful and remain steadfast in our quest to rise and rebuild," stated Alvarez in an email last week.

SML opens 2012 season on March 26



The Saipan Major League Baseball Association will open its 2012 season on March 26 at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

League officials are asking teams to begin securing their respective sponsors in order to shoulder general expenses such as entry fees, uniforms, and other equipment.

An organizational meeting

will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Topics on the agenda include team entrance fees, game schedules, ground rules, and other related matters.

Teams and other interested parties are requested to attend this meeting.

For more information, contact league coordinator Tony I. Rogolifoi at 785-0823 or 288-5426. (SML)

FALCONS

From Page 28

Kapileo and Alan Hinson and an RBI double by Ivan Seo.

Kapileo was tapped on the mound by Harold Lee to close the final out of the fifth and he went on to hold the Sox to just two runs in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Kapileo gave up zero earned runs off two hits with two walks and six strikeouts in four 2/3 innings. He also batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs, two runs, and a base on balls.

Hinson swung 2-for-2 with two RBIs, a run, and a base on balls.

Red Sox 11, Twins 1

A triple and an error scored Red Sox's Jode Reyes and his team

blew the lid off the game in the second inning to catapult in front, 9-0.

The surge was highlighted by a two-run home run by Delin Reusora and a solo shot by Ryan Aguon. However, a number of infield errors helped the Sox bat through its lineup.

The Twins managed its lone-run in the third inning, but the Red Sox responded with two runs in the bottom frame before starting pitcher Reusora returned to the mound and struck out the side to close up shop early.

Winning pitcher Reusora gave up one run off three hits with three walks and eight strikeouts in four innings.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Rollers and the Ayuyus.

The winner moves on to face undefeated Runnin' Rebels in tomorrow's curtain raiser, while the other team will be paired against Akkeri in a knockout match later today.

At 5:30pm, the Saints clash with Saipan 1 in a lower bracket elimination match; games will run hourly until roughly 8:30pm.

Jets II 9, Enforcers 4

Jets II took a 3-2 lead in the second inning from a RBI poke by Francisco Palacios and an RBI single by Jones Langu.

Jets II then added three runs in the third and another in the fourth, all from errors.

The count then shifted to 8-4 as the Enforcers' Mathew Lisua pulled on a two-RBI base smash to start the fifth frame. Jets II got a run back in the bottom half from a base knock by Shane DeLeon Guerrero.

Jets II went on to add another run off a wild pitch in the sixth and finished off its opponents 1-2-3 in the final frame.

Winning pitcher Jeremy Lizama went the distance and gave up three earned runs off five hits with

five walks and seven strikeouts.

Jets II's Isaiah Cruz batted 3-for-3 with two runs.

Falcons 14, Jets I 1

Falcons pitcher Adolfo Roppul dominated Jets I on the mound and allowed just one hit in four scoreless innings before a slight hiccup in the fifth frame.

His teammates obliged with a seven-run burst in the third inning to put the birds ahead, 8-0.

Not that he need it, but Roppul received four more insurance runs in the fourth and a couple of more in the fifth before securing the early decision.

Roppul gave up one run off an earned run off one hit with five walks and seven strikeouts in five innings.

ISLAND

From Page 28

Othello, and Saipan 2 were eliminated during last week-end's opening rounds.

Action resumes at the Garapan court at 4:30pm today with an upper bracket pairing between the

ROTA

From Page 28

event officials will be present on Tinian, Saipan, and Guam to help ensure a snag-free registration process.

Off-island boats can begin fishing once they leave their home docks and do not have to travel all the way to Rota if they do not have a worthy catch to submit.

The awards ceremony will take place at Sainan Ina San Isidro Church, which is also the venue for Saturday's island-wide fiesta.

For more information or to obtain a registration, call 532-9362 or 285-4018 or email diego@pticom.com or pete_rmc@yahoo.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)



Activity Schedule for March 10, 2012



8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

Games start at 6:00 PM



There are no scheduled games.







There are no scheduled games.



**Magic end
Bulls' 8-game
win streak**

Page 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Marino: Manning
'fits with anybody'
in NFL**

Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 10-11, 2012

Falcons rally to tie Ol'Aces

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some mixed outcomes were produced this week after a slew of blowout results from last weekend as the 2012 Saipan Little League season continued at the Oleai Sports Complex.



In Major Division at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the IT&E Ol'Aces could not hold off a late rally by the Natibu Sports Association Tanapag Falcons in a barn burner on Thursday that was ultimately put on pause with the match stalemated at 6-all due to the lack of light.

In addition, IT&E's self-titled squad defeated the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, 7-3, on Tuesday, just after the latter run-ruled the Natibu Tanapag Twins, 11-1, in four innings back on Sunday.

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Senior League's Juan Santiago-Jets II bested the DPS Dare

Program Enforcers, 9-4, on Sunday, while the Natibu Tanapag Falcons lit up Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I, 14-1, on Tuesday.

MAJOR LEAGUE Ol'Aces 6, Falcons 6

Ol'Aces held a 5-3 lead after four innings and starting pitcher Virgil Secharmidal exceeded his pitching limit after issuing a leadoff walk to start the fifth.

Jimmy Kapiat was tapped to secure the final five outs, but the Falcons managed a run off an error to pull within a run.

Ol'Aces came up empty in the fifth and the Falcons captured the lead, 6-5, in the top of the sixth on a pair of fielder's choices that scored a couple of



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

IT&E Ol'Aces' Jimmy Kapiat is lifted in the air by teammate Tyler Flores after the former led off the bottom of the sixth inning with a game-tying solo home run during Thursday's Major Division pairing against the Natibu Tanapag Falcons at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

leadoff walks.

Believe it or not Kapiat would redeem himself with a big play at the plate to end the inning.

He stepped up to the plate to start the bottom of the sixth inning and airmailed a solo homerun to tie the game back up.

His teammate Secharmidal tried to follow suit, but Falcons centerfielder Ave Evangelista made a sweet over-the-shoulder catch at the fence.

The Falcons managed to fend off Ol'Aces throughout regulation, but the umpires declared

the game to be suspended to a later date due to lack of light.

IT&E 7, Red Sox 3

IT&E's Nathan Kapileo led off with a double and scored off a wild pitch to break the ice in the opening frame.

The Red Sox contained IT&E in the next two innings, but the latter jolted ahead, 6-1, in the fourth off four hits including a pair of two-RBI doubles by

**See FALCONS
on Page 27**

Island-Wide Youth cage tourney concludes this weekend

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Unified Basketball Association's Island Wide Youth Basketball Tournament champions will officially be crowned this weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The three-division tournament already concluded its U15 and U17 age groups over the past two weeks and today its nine-team U25 main division will determine which three squads will survive into tomorrow's semifinals.

The remaining teams include the Runnin' Rebels, Rollers, Ayuyus, San Vicente Saints, Akkeri, and Saipan 1. Hi-5,

See ISLAND on Page 27

San Vicente Saints' Vince Iglesias makes a strong move to the hoop against Othello's Krog Ogo in Saturday's UBA U25 Island Wide Youth Basketball Tournament matchup held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



ROP 12: Unstoppable postponed to April 20

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites Of Passage 12: Unstoppable mixed martial arts event has been rescheduled for April 20 at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The tentative fight card features two title bouts, a Japan versus Saipan super fight, a Guam versus Saipan grudge match, and a heavyweight main event.

A pair of boxing exhibitions kick off the action with Guam-



Countershot's Lloyd Cubacub and Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas at 130 lbs followed by team Zalaka veteran Zac Reyes welcoming a new member of the Countershot stable for his debut at 170 lbs.

Then four K-1 kickboxing matches take over the cage as Countershot's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (0-1) and Zalaka's Ton Villagomez (0-1) square off at 120 lbs; Guam Muay Thai's

See ROP 12 on Page 27

Trench Tech fighter Josh "Chaos" Duenas gives a thumbs up after checking out the octagon in Pacific Xtreme Combat 30 held at the University of Guam Field House last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Fishing Derby set March 15 and 16

San Isidro Church Council and its supporters are sponsoring the Rota Fishing Derby on March 15 and 16.

The entrance fee is set at \$150 per boat, which covers two anglers. Each additional angler costs \$25.

Fishermen from Tinian, Saipan, and Guam are invited to help support the church's build-

ing fund drive. All boats must be in by 6pm on both days in order for their submissions to be accepted; upon registration boats set out to sea early as 6am.

The Top 3 place finishers in the billfish, wahoo, skipjack, mahi, and yellow tuna categories will all be awarded cash and other prizes.

Coincidentally, since the

event will take place during Rota's San Isidro village fiesta, all competitors are invited to stay over after the event and partake in Saturday's festivities. However, an exclusive awards banquet will held for participants on Friday night.

In an effort to make signing up easy for off-island entrants,

See ROTA on Page 27